

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Hubbub Roger Boyes on the threat of new unrest in Poland over food price increases next month



A DRUM! A DRUM! MURRAY BOTH COME

Bubble The battle to publish Shakespeare in comic-strip form: three of his plays are now in print

Toil... Who does the actual conveyancing work in a solicitor's office - and is the house-buyer subsidizing the litigant?

...and trouble Sean Connery talks about his new Bond film, Never Say Never Again

Banking ombudsman likely

A banking ombudsman to deal with customer's grievances is likely to be appointed in response to the report on banking services published by the National Consumer Council.

Wife murderer jailed for life

Peter Reyn-Bardt, who admitted killing his wife, Malika, more than 20 years ago, was sentenced to life imprisonment after conviction for murder by Chester Crown Court.

Eagle stakes up

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, and BAT Industries, the British tobacco and retailing empire, each raised their record-breaking takeover bids yesterday for the Eagle Star insurance group.

Killer executed

Louisiana's first execution in 22 years took place yesterday when Robert Wayne Williams was electrocuted for the shotgun killing of a supermarket guard.



Hospital cuts

Government plans to double the number of hospital consultants in the health service have fallen victim to spending cuts, doctors' leaders say.

Imports ban

Debt-ridden Brazil has suspended virtually all imports until next year to stop dollars leaving the country.

Letters: On The Day After, from Mr Miles Copeland, sen; Airbus, from Lord Beswick; parole, from Professor J. E. Hall Williams

Leading articles: The pound, Rate support grant, Europe and Northern Ireland

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Events, Features, Law Report, Letters, Parliament, Sale Book, Sport, TV & Radio, Weather, WBs

Murray victory leaves NGA in bitter retreat

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union resistance to the Government's labour laws began to crumble last night as Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, won a vote of confidence for his policy of non-cooperation of the Employment Act.

They cannot win without the TUC... Mr Shah said last night that his commitment to his staff's wish not to join a union was as firm as ever.

Scargill calls for biggest picket

By David Felton and Ronald Faux, Warrington

Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, yesterday called on the trade union movement to mount "the biggest picket line in history" round Mr Selim (Eddie) Shah's Warrington printing works.

He said he would re-engage the six dismissed NGA typewriters at the centre of the dispute... He also revealed he intended to expand by acquiring a paid-for newspaper.

Reuters agree to go public

By Philip Robinson

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information service owned by newspapers, last night quashed doubts about its intentions by saying that it would seek a listing for its shares on the Stock Exchange.

Rate rises likely as support grant falls

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced rate support grants worth almost £12,000m to English local councils next year, a total lower in real terms than this year's and marking a further stage in the steady reduction in the share of council spending paid for by Whitehall.

But that formula is itself curbed by extra criteria, one of which aggravated the Conservative-dominated Association of County Councils. It complained that although the Government expected the cost of living to rise next year by 5 per cent, it was using its extra criteria in making grants to councils to discourage them from raising spending by more than 3 per cent.

Video editors earning £100,000

By David Hewson

Three videotape editors who have each been earning more than £100,000 a year are at the centre of a dispute which has blacked out The Big Match commercial television since the beginning of the football season.



Best foot forward: Prince William at Kensington Palace yesterday walking in public for the first time. More photographs, back page.

Reagan decides to run again

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

President Reagan has finally decided to seek reelection next year. Encouraged by high ratings in the opinion polls, a buoyant economic recovery and a resurgence of national pride in the wake of the Grenada invasion, the President, who will be 73 on February 6, has told his senior staff he will formally announce his decision on January 29.

The announcement, which will take place four days after his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, will be made in a 15-minute nationally televised address from the Oval Office at the White House. The President has already started working on an outline of his speech.

Mr Reagan has tried to hold off a formal announcement for as long as possible, but some deadlines are approaching which have made it necessary for him to signal his intentions clearly. Before the end of this year he must sign papers to meet filing deadlines for primary elections in Illinois and New Hampshire.

America's big guns shell Syrians

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Americans unexpectedly responded to Syrian anti-aircraft fire on their reconnaissance jets over Lebanon yesterday evening by ordering their 58,000-400 battleship, New Jersey, to fire her 16-in guns at the Syrian Army.

landed near the ruined ski resort of Dahr el-Baidar, a crumbling village 23 miles east of Beirut and one third of the way to Damascus.

had long grown used to the idea that the vessel was a symbol of the second consecutive day on which American naval vessels had bombarded the mountains and already a pattern of retaliation is developing. Syrian troops fire at US jets and American warships open up a barrage in response.

Pound still under pressure

Heavy intervention by West German's central bank, which sold an estimated \$250m (£177m) to defend its currency, knocked the dollar off its peaks yesterday and helped to take some of the pressure off sterling.

Solicitors' monopoly to be ended

The Government is expected to promise tomorrow that it will introduce legislation of its own to remove the solicitors' monopoly on conveyancing.

£5 buys him a pair of boots.



It's not much to spend on a man who risks his life saving other people's. Yet every penny that goes towards the lifeboats has to come from voluntary contributions.

Subscription form for Lifeboat magazine with fields for name, address, and payment details.

Police draft reforms on use of guns

By Our Crime Reporter

A package of changes for police firearms training and the assessment of officers in the wake of the shooting of Mr Steven Wallford in January are being proposed by a working party of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The changes include doubling the initial training period to two weeks, increasing refresher courses to two days, three or four times a year, and teaching policemen better emotional control and a better appreciation of when or when not to open fire.

Details of the recommendations are given tonight on Thames Television's programme TV Eye, which looks at the Wallford shooting. The recommendations are outlined by Assistant Commissioner Geoffrey Dear, who is in charge of training and personnel at Scotland Yard.

Decisions on the proposals are likely to be taken in the new year - There are plans to introduce a number of psychological tests to assess officers during their early training and the tests may be repeated every few years to keep pace with officers' emotional changes.

In London the recommendations would also call for the presence where possible of a member of DII, the specialized police firearms experts, when guns were used.

Irish airport plan in trouble

The Government of the Irish Republic has told sponsors of a plan to build an airport at Knock, Co Mayo, the Marian shrine village, that it will supply no more cash for the project.

More than £7m has been spent by successive governments on constructing a 7,500ft runway but a further £3.5m is still needed. Yesterday the Government decided that sponsors of the airport would have to find the rest of the cash elsewhere.

BP officers halt joint mess plan

British Petroleum yesterday shelved plans for "social integration" of officers and ratings on their oil tankers after a threat of industrial action from the officers' trade union.

The Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association (MNAOA) told the oil company that its 600 members in the 26 BP vessels had adopted a policy of non-cooperation with the proposals and would obstruct any attempt to impose mixed mess and recreational facilities.

Life-support man donates kidneys

The family of Mr Graham Alcock, aged 28, yesterday approved the use of his organs for transplants, even though he is still on a life support machine.

Mr Alcock of Tean, Staffordshire, was admitted to hospital on Monday with serious head injuries when he fell 10ft from a ladder at work. But his wife yesterday accepted that he was clinically dead.

Correction

Mr Richard Ryder, Conservative MP for Mid Norfolk, points out that at a press conference on Tuesday he said he would be disappointed if the Government did not support the principles underlying the House Buyers Bill and not, as reported yesterday, the Bill itself.

QE2 wrangle as Germans deny responsibility for boiler fault

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The West German shipyard which carried out a £4.5m refit of the Queen Elizabeth 2 yesterday denied responsibility for her boiler troubles. Hapag-Lloyd of Bremerhaven said that three of the QE2's boilers during her stay; two by Hapag-Lloyd and one by a British contractor. The two boilers they had worked on worked perfectly, Hapag-Lloyd said; the other did not.

When trouble arose on the third boiler Cunard asked if the ship on stay in the yard beyond her planned departure date on Monday for it to be rectified, but Hapag-Lloyd declined, partly because of the tide.

"Our work was done. The ship left the yard with all work due to Hapag-Lloyd completed on time. We wanted to make sure the problem was not our side."

The British contractor working on the third boiler was Hamworthy Engineering, a respected maker of marine pumps, compressors, and combustion equipment in Poole, Dorset.

A spokesman for the parent Powell Duffryn Group said: "So far as we are concerned there has been no problem with our equipment at all. We have a contract with Cunard to fit new burners to all three boilers on the QE2. One was installed satisfactorily in Bremerhaven; the others will be done in the new year."

A key part of the new burner is an atomizer, a tube of about 4ft 2in diameter. It adds steam to heated heavy oil and sprays it into the furnace in fine droplets, under pressure.

The issue appears to be: Did the third boiler fail to work because of some fault by Hamworthy or Hapag-Lloyd, or because of fault in the ship herself? There appears to have been a shortage of purified feed water to the boilers arising from a blocked pipe in the feed system.

That, as one expert said last night, was the sort of thing that could arise on any 17-year-old ship after her system has been shaken up in an overhaul.

● The liner finally sailed from Southampton last night, 22 hours behind schedule, on her three-day Channel cruise (our Southampton Correspondent writes).

Cunard said that 55 passengers had walked off the ship and asked for their money back, and that had been refunded. The remaining 1,415 passengers who stayed on board will be rewarded with free drinks throughout the remaining two days of the cruise.

Mr Bernard Crisp, Cunard's managing director, described the breakdown as a minor problem. He was confident the QE2 would be able to be sent off on her world cruise in January in perfect mechanical condition.

Jenkin cry for help on reforms

By Anthony Berins, Political Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has issued a cry for help to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, asking them to rally round in defence of his plans for local government and rating reform.

A letter, dated December 8, points out that plans for rate-capping and the abolition of the Greater London and metropolitan county councils "are attracting considerable comment and controversy".

Mr Jenkin circulated a 40-page briefing document and says in his letter: "I cannot urge too strongly that colleagues should respond whenever appropriate to arguments to which focus on their policy areas."

Mr John Cunningham, shadow spokesman on the environment, who last night published the leaked letter, said it showed that the government was "running scared".

The letter discloses that the Secretary of State put one of his junior ministers, Mr Williams Waldegrave, in charge of a special unit "to coordinate better our response to the well organized campaign of opposition and propaganda which we face".

Extension of legal aid urged

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Legal aid should be available to people appearing before all tribunals, the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee said in its annual report yesterday.

If there is not enough money to do that, tribunals dealing with personal liberty should be given priority.

The committee says: "Bail applications to the immigration appellate authorities are the only proceedings under the general supervision of the Council on Tribunals in England and Wales involving personal liberty for which legal aid is not available". Legal aid should be available in immigration cases where leave to appeal is granted.

The report says that the case for extending legal aid also to hearings before the Social Security Commissioners is unanswered.

The Law Society's annual report on legal aid, published in the same document, says payments have risen from £9,130,231 in 1978-79 to £31,745,186 in 1982-83. The Law Society administers the scheme under the supervision of the Lord Chancellor.

Legal Aid: 33rd Annual Report of The Law Society and of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee 1982-83 (House of Commons Paper 137, Stationary Office, £10.75).

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Navy has an admiral for every two frigates

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Greater Grimsby, said that the Royal Navy has been more successful in protecting its top jobs than other Services. In the middle of this year there was one admiral for every two fighting ships of frigate class and above. In 1953, there had been one admiral for every 4.7 such ships.

Earlier there were still eight naval officers of the rank of commodore/senior captain and above for every ten who held these ranks in 1953. By comparison, the Army has only six people of equivalent rank for every ten in 1953, and the Royal Air Force has seven.

An important factor behind these differences is that National Service was less prevalent in the Navy compared to the other services, so that the contribution in manpower with the ending of conscription was less marked.

Thus while the Royal Navy, including the Royal Marines, has fallen in strength from 146,000 in 1953 to about 71,000 today, the Army has declined from nearly 450,000 to about 160,000, and the RAF from 316,000 to 98,000.

The average number of Service personnel commanded by officers of the rank of brigadier, air commodore, senior captain, and above fell from 860 in 1953, to 458 this year.

In the Royal Marines, Royal Air Force, and the Army there is now one senior officer for every 420 to 445 non-commissioned officers and other ranks, but in the Royal Navy the ratio is only one to 367.

Although the number holding senior rank has declined, there are some notable exceptions. In 1953, in the Navy, the fighting fleet of frigates are above numbered 384 vessels and there were 104 people with the rank of commodore/senior captain.

This year, when the numbers of ships had diminished to 97, the number of senior captains and commodores had risen to 119.



'Roman skull' killer guilty

Peter Reyn-Bardt last night began a life sentence for the murder of his wife Malika more than 22 years ago.

Reyn-Bardt, a former airline official aged 37, strangled his "marriage of convenience" wife in a row over money, hacked her body to pieces with an axe and buried the remains in the garden of his cottage in Wilmslow, Cheshire.

In the lively woman aged 32, who spoke several languages and loved to move in the same social circles, he saw the chance of cheap travel around the world and contact with the rich and famous.

After a honeymoon in Zurich, Tripoli and Rome, the new "Mrs Rainbird" soon discovered her husband's homosexuality. Their relationship, in various flats in Manchester, deteriorated within a year and she disappeared for long periods.

Soon Reyn-Bardt had set up another home in Heathfield Cottage, in Wilmslow, an affluent Manchester suburb.

Reyn-Bardt was alone in the cottage, with his large wooded garden, when his wife returned several months later. There was a bitter row and Reyn-Bardt strangled her.

In 1963 he went to Portsmouth. There, in 1975, he met Paul Russell Corrigan. This was to be his downfall.

The two men were arrested for abducting young boys from the streets of Portsmouth for homosexual offences, and jailed.

After his release in January 1981, Paul Corrigan killed a young boy in Birmingham after a rape and torture. In jail, he asked to see detectives and told them of Reyn-Bardt's story of killing his wife.

They could not do so. Reyn-Bardt, now living in Knightsbridge, was questioned about his wife's disappearance and denied murdering her.

Then, on Friday, May 13, workers collecting peat for mushroom beds found a human skull in the earth 300 yards from the grounds of Heathfield Cottage. In October tests confirmed that the skull dated from about AD 410, and had no connection with the case.

But in June police had again seen Reyn-Bardt and confronted him with the "evidence". He then admitted killing his wife.

The NGA dispute

Speedy union chiefs fail to deter writ servers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The sight of trade unionists making a quick getaway will not deter those with the job of serving legal documents on people who may not wish to receive them.

Like the "Mounties", they have a pride in getting their man. Some are solicitors. Others make a living from the job. Serving of documents is part of the business of Flowerdew and Co, legal agents, who celebrate their centenary next year.

This week, *The Times* reported that Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, sprinted from a back door of Congress House as an official chased him down the street with High Court orders granted to several newspaper publishers pronouncing the next day's planned strike as unlawful. Mr Wade was driven away, leaving the official waving his documents at the kerb-side.

NGA members lose appeal over expulsion

The National Graphical Association acted lawfully in expelling four members for alleged strike-breaking, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Mr Justice Skinner dismissed a claim by four managers at John H. Burrows and Sons, of Basildon, Essex, that the union had broken its own rules by not allowing them to give oral evidence before its appeal committee or national council.

The only requirement was for an oral hearing at branch level which was offered to the men.

● The National Union of Journalists is to seek leave to appeal to the Lords today against a High Court injunction outlawing a journalists strike at Mr David Dimbleby's Richmond-based newspaper group in South West London.

● Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday refused to issue a Labour judgment on the National Graphical Association conflict with the Employment Acts.

De Lorean millions still missing, receiver says

More than \$8.5m, part of a payment which was spent by Mr John De Lorean's Belfast car company and then mysteriously disappeared, was used by him after passing through a network of Swiss and United States banks.

Investigations have shown that the sum, spent developing the De Lorean sports car, was used to guarantee a loan to the Belfast car chief, Sir Kenneth Cork, the receiver, told MPs last night.

A further \$9m, also intended for the car's technical development, is still missing and detailed checks have been unable to trace it, Sir Kenneth told the Commons Public Accounts Committee during its investigation of the De Lorean affair.

The total missing \$17.5m had been paid to a small Swiss company, known as GPD, to finance the development under contract with the Norwich car company.

Sir Kenneth pointed to the cash manipulation as a possible breach of company law.

He said: "If someone takes money out of a company and everyone thinks it goes for a certain purpose, and it goes for no purpose at all, it is certainly a breach of some Companies Act."

Be curious Yard asks Londoners

By Stewart Teadler, Crime Reporter

Londoners were urged by Scotland Yard yesterday to "be curious" and report anything suspicious to the police. Meanwhile the hunt got under way for the bombing team who left a powerful device close to a busy shopping street on Tuesday.

As the police stepped up their presence on the London streets at the prospect of a Provisional IRA Christmas bombing campaign, Sir Kenneth Newman, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, called on the public to "be our eyes and ears". In turn, he promised more men and resources to combat the bombers.

As he spoke, officers from the anti-terrorist squad were still examining the remains of a 10lb device left near Kensington High Street. The device was hidden in a holdall and the police are trying to discover why it failed to explode.

In Oxford, Thames Valley officers were investigating a device left in a telephone box in Cowley late on Tuesday night. The device exploded sending the kiosk door into the road.

Yesterday the force said that no one had claimed responsibility for the device.

The police do not believe the bomb as the work of a terrorist group.

BL criticized over tax avoidance

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

BL failed to notify the Government of "substantial" tax avoidance deals in 1981 and 1982 resulting in a high cost to the Exchequer, the all-party Committee of Public Accounts reported yesterday.

Although the company is required under a memorandum to tell ministers of decisions that have important economic or political implications, it did not consider the transactions fell within tax law and were consistent with its obligations to act commercially, the report said.

The Department of Trade and Industry has "depreciated" BL's failure to report the dealings because of the cost to the Exchequer of the extra funding obtained through the arrangement and "the undesirability of publicly owned companies taking part in tax avoidance activities".

The department has decided, however, not to tighten up the memorandum after receiving BL's assurances against recurrence.

Its reasons for doing so were described by the committee yesterday as "not entirely convincing".

Mr Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, said in the report, of his inquiry into the arrangements for supervising and monitoring BL that the department had become aware after the event that the company had undertaken transactions in 1981 and 1982 with third parties through which it obtained "substantial" sums in exchange for the transfer of tax losses.

He said: "BL regarded the transactions as falling within existing tax law and considered that the use of a company's tax-loss assets in this way was well established commercial practice."

Committee of Public Accounts: Session 1983-84. Department of Industry supervision and monitoring of British Leyland (Stationary Office, £2.85).

Hospitals under threat

The North West Thames Regional Health Authority is studying options that include closing as many as three big district general hospitals over the next decade, including Barnet General Hospital in Mrs Thatcher's constituency.

The options include shutting acute services at the Westminster Teaching Hospital, Central Middlesex Hospital in Brent, Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex, which has a specialist burns unit. St Charles and St Stephen's Hospital in London and Edgware and Barnet General Hospitals in Middlesex.

The options are set out in an internal memorandum that has been leaked to the *Breath* Health Emergency Campaign.

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Spread your wings

RUC man may be charged with murder

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A policeman in the Royal Ulster Constabulary is expected to be charged with murdering a young Roman Catholic man three days ago.

The constable, in his twenties, was arrested at his home on Tuesday by detectives investigating the shooting of Anthony Dawson in the Roman Catholic Short Strand enclave of strongly Protestant east Belfast.

Details of the arrest, which is highly embarrassing for the RUC, as the funeral of Mr Dawson, aged 18, was being held in east Belfast. The officer being questioned was off duty when Mr Dawson was shot.

Chinese lacquer tray fetches £70,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The strength of the top of the art market and lack of support below was starkly underlined by Christie's London sale of important Chinese lacquer and works of art yesterday, which scored an auction record price for red lacquer while 150 lots out of 315 in the sale failed to find buyers.

The record £70,200 was paid by the Gammon Art Gallery of Hongkong for a square red lacquer tray of the early fifteenth century carved with a pavilion and figures in a landscape reminiscent of the old "willow pattern". The estimate was £45,000 to £60,000.

There was an exceptional red lacquer section in the sale, with a cylindrical box of similar date, deeply carved with a similar landscape, selling for £37,800 (estimate £30,000 to £45,000) and a marbled hexagonal ewer with the Jiajing reign mark (1522-1566) making £30,240 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000), also to Gammon.

The sale totalled £528,358 with 37 per cent left unsold in cash terms. The stoneware proved the most difficult to sell.

At Sotheby's a clump of snowdrops met an unlooked-for degree of competition. They were parted on a board with an arched top by John Atkinson Grimshaw in 1862 and provided with an arch title, "Fair Maids of February". Christopher Wood, the London dealer who specializes in Victorian paintings, paid £11,550 (estimate £1,500 to £2,500) for them. They are rendered with great precision against the brown earth and dead leaves of autumn.

There were two Edward Ladell still lives of fruit and wine glasses on a table, each

NHS plan to double consultants 'in disarray'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Government plans to double the number of hospital consultants by 1996 are in disarray after restrictions on health service spending and manpower cuts have forced doctors' leaders to say they will not accept the plan.

Figures compiled for the joint consultants committee and the British Medical Association's hospital junior staff committee show that, far from the rate of expansion in consultant numbers increasing, it has fallen for the last two years and is set to fall still further next year.

The proposal to double the number of consultants was agreed by Mr Patrick Jenkin when he was Secretary of State for Social Services in 1981. The aim was to improve both the quality of patient care and to ease the growing bottle-neck in the ranks of junior doctors who are trained to consultant status but then have to wait years for a consultant post.

Dr Frank Wells, secretary to the two committees, said yesterday that consultant numbers needed to expand at 4.7 per cent a year to meet the target.

But in the year ended last April, numbers expanded by only 1.3 per cent, the lowest growth for five years. A survey carried out by the junior doctors' union showed that this year's growth would be lower, and next year's lower still.

Of 491 new consultants posts approved for this year, it appeared that only 287 would be filled by health authorities and a consultant appointment. Next year the figure was likely to be 337.

The joint consultants committee had delivered a strong protest to ministers through Sir Henry Yelloweas, the chief medical officer at the Department of Health, he said, and the issue will be put to the BMA's council next month.

"The commitment to consultant expansion just is not taking place to anything like the degree promised or needed," he said. "It is virtually at a standstill."

Dr Aubrey Bristol, chairman of the hospital junior staff committee, said that there were many fully qualified senior registrars ready to become consultants.

Not expanding the consultant grade meant failing to treat patients on growing waiting lists when the doctors were ready, and available, he added.

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Banking back after c...

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Pocket TV supplies are delayed

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Murder case banned from...

Murder case banned from...

Police de...

Police de...

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Banking ombudsman is backed by minister after consumer survey

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A banking ombudsman to deal with customers' grievances is likely to be set up in response to the report on banking services published yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

Establishing an ombudsman is one of the key recommendations of the report, which nevertheless concludes that by and large customers are content with the service banks give.

A Market and Opinion Research Institute survey carried out for the council showed that nine in ten customers were either "very" or "fairly" satisfied with their banks, although most still wanted to see improvements.

Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, chairman of the subcommittee of the council which drew up the report, said yesterday of the customers' attitudes: "If you have a low expectation you are satisfied with what you get".

She said that the survey might suggest that nearly everything in the banking system was lovely, but banks should take note of the improvements that customers want to see, and the fact that building societies are already providing some of the things that banking customers say they want, such as longer opening hours.

The report, commissioned by the Government in the spring of 1982, was generally welcomed

by the banks. Mr Alex Fletcher, minister responsible for corporate and consumer affairs at the Department of Trade and Industry backed the proposal for an ombudsman.

Although the council found that customers were in general highly satisfied, and rarely complained, it identified and recommended on some areas where it saw scope for improvement.

Those included opening hours and bank charges. Many customers grumbled about difficulties in getting cash out of their banks and most wanted Saturday opening. There was also considerable dissatisfaction over the way bank charges were calculated and the lack of information on charges.

Bank customers with building society accounts also tended to find their building society more friendly and easier to deal with.

The main thrust of the council's recommendations is aimed at encouraging and facilitating better relations between banks, building societies, and other institutions which it sees as the best way of improving the service for customers.

The council's key recommendations are:

The Government should review the development of money transmission services within two or three years. If there are signs that building societies and

others are not being allowed into cheque clearing and electronic payments systems on equitable terms the Government should consider whether the Committee of London Clearing Bankers should still be allowed to control the systems.

The composite rate of interest, which favours building societies, should be abolished and savers with banks or societies should be allowed to choose whether to receive interest net or gross of tax.

Building societies should have limited powers to grant loans without the security of a first mortgage.

Banks should not deduct bank charges from customers' accounts without telling them first.

Banks should give more information to customers on the cost of overdrafts.

Changes should be made to the way banks administer wills through their business.

The banks should set up and pay for the banking ombudsman, backed by an independent council, along the lines of the insurance industry's ombudsman.

The Committee of London Clearing Bankers said last night that the banks had set up a working party to study the idea of a banking ombudsman. The banks would be considering individually the recommendations on bank charges.



Happy heroine Sharon Pankhurst, aged 13 with comedians Eric Morecombe and Ernie Wise at Westminster Abbey yesterday. Two months ago Sharon saved four of her brothers from a fire (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Children receive bravery awards

Ten children were guests of honour at a carol service in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

A youngster who tackled an armed burglar twice his size, a girl who saved the lives of her four brothers, a scout who overcame a horrific accident, were three examples of the bravery and endurance shown by the 10 "Children of Courage" who received bravery awards from Princess Alexandra.

Jerome Kishlingbury, aged 13, wrestled with a would-be burglar who attacked his mother with a knife. The boy, from Connaught Road, Reading, woke to see a strange figure bending over his sleeping sister. The man wandered into his mother's bedroom. As she telephoned the police the man pinned her against the wall, holding a knife to her stomach.

Although the man was 6ft 2in and about 15 stone, the boy jumped on his back, pushed him to the floor, and "just kept

kicking him. "Of course I was frightened," the boy said. "It was the only thing I could do. I did not want my mum to get killed."

Sharon Pankhurst, aged 10 saved four of her brothers from a fire at their home in Leeds two months ago. She threw the boys - aged five, four, two, and one - out of a window to her father 20 feet below. Only then did she jump.

Other children who received awards were Shaun Nethercott, aged 12, from Exeter; Andrew McLean, aged 5, from Penarth, Glamorgan; Sarah Foggion, aged 11, from Wallend, Tyne and Wear; Angela Carruthers, aged 4, from Dumfriesshire, Scotland; Richard Neale, aged 11, from Kent; Lorraine Topham, aged 8, from Manchester; Carl Dickinson, aged 12, from Yorkshire; and Brenda Maxwell, aged 11, from Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

The awards were sponsored by *Woman's Own* magazine.

Pocket TV supplies are delayed

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The first shipments of the Sinclair pocket television set which was launched in September have been sent to customers in Britain nearly a month later than expected, principally because of production problems.

More than 5,000 have been placed with Sinclair for the two-inch flat-screen television.

It is unlikely that the backlog will be cleared before Christmas, but by the end of January, if the company realizes its targets, 10,000 of the sets will be manufactured each month. A national advertising campaign is scheduled for January.

At the launch of his revolutionary television, the minute black and white screen of which is the result of six years' research and £4m investment, Sir Clive Sinclair predicted that demand would outstrip supply and that the product would initially be available only through direct mail order.

The television, which retails for £79.95, is less than a third of the price of its closest rivals.

Coin Street appeal lost by boroughs

By John Young

The Court of Appeal appeared yesterday finally to have cleared the way for the redevelopment of the Coin Street site on the South Bank in central London.

Lord Justice Waller, sitting with Lord Justice Watkins and Lord Justice Browne-Wilkinson, unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Greater London Council, the London borough of Lambeth and Southwark, and the Association of Waterloo Groups. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was also refused, although the objectors can still apply directly to the Lords for leave.

The objectors' case was that Mr Tom King, former Secretary of State for the Environment, had acted inconsistently in granting simultaneous planning permission last January for two separate and incompatible schemes.

One scheme, submitted by Greycoat Commercial Estates, consisted substantially of offices and shops. The other, prepared by the Association of Waterloo Groups, a loose federation of local residents' associations,

placed greater emphasis on housing and accommodation for small industries.

The site, which occupies 13 acres between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges, is seen as one of the most important in central London. The public inquiry into the two schemes gained much public attention in 1981 when demonstrators repeatedly interrupted the proceedings and succeeded in forcing a postponement.

The Court of Appeal's verdict upholds a refusal by Mr Justice Brown in the High Court last July to quash Mr King's decision.

Yesterday, Lord Justice Waller said that no decision could ever be free from criticism, but that in his opinion the criticisms made in the case had no validity. He could see no prejudice in the Secretary of State's decision.

Since one of the last acts of the outgoing Conservative GLC administration in 1981 was to sell most of the freehold to Greycoat the latter's scheme can be halted only if the Lords agree to hear a further appeal.

Law Society censured in costs case

The Law Society, the professional body for solicitors, was seriously at fault in dealing with complaints against a solicitor according to an official report published yesterday.

The solicitor, Mr Glanville Davis, of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, was struck off the roll of solicitors by a High Court judge last October.

Mr Leslie Parsons, a businessman of Lon Hill, Carmarthen, had brought court proceedings against Mr Davies after claiming that the Law Society had failed to deal properly with his complaints, which mainly concerned gross overcharging. Normally the Law Society takes such action.

After Mr Davies was struck off by Mr Justice Vinelott, Major-General John Allen, the Lay Observer attached to the Lord Chancellor's Department, investigated the case. In his report, published yesterday, General Allen said that the Law Society was seriously at fault on five occasions.

Mr Davies had acted for Mr Parsons for several years in a commercial dispute, where Mr Parsons received £530,000 damages. Mr Davies charged Mr Parsons £198,000, which was later reduced to £67,000 by a High Court costing official.

General Allen's report said that Mr Parsons had a valid ground for complaint about the "gross overcharging". The Law Society should have appreciated that.

The Law Society said yesterday that it accepted the Lay Observer's criticisms.

Sex-case optician is struck off

Brian Harris, an optician who was struck off for sexual intercourse with women for sexual intercourse, was struck off the optician register yesterday. He had the option of appealing to the Privy Council and could apply to be reinstated after 12 months.

Mr Harris, of Cotswold Place, Blackpool, and his wife, Edna, on hearing the General Optical Council's disciplinary hearing in Harley Street, London, were surrounded by press photographers.

Mr Harris was struck off for contravening section 11 of the Opticians Act, 1958. The decision came after a trial last April at which he was given an 18-month suspended sentence and fined £1,600, with £1,000 costs after admitting drugs and sex offences.

Mr Andrew Mirams, for the optician, told yesterday's hearing that Mr Harris had advertised for a live-in housekeeper in a local newspaper and had persuaded two women to sign a sex contract after drugging them with cannabis and making love.

The contract signed by two women, aged 23 and 35, said in part: "I further undertake and understand that any forms of sex play or intercourse will be with my full consent".

£102,000 for sex loss man

Mr Jonathan Kelly, whose sexual life was ruined in a car crash, was awarded £102,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Kelly, a computer operator, was 17 when he suffered a "frightening catalogue" of injuries in the crash in 1977. Mr Justice Comyn said: "Here is a young man who welcomed sex and wanted it", the judge said.

The damages will be paid by the driver, Mr Leslie Evans, of Finchley Road, Golders Green, north London.

Mr Kelly, aged 23, of Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill, north London, said: "I don't have much social life now. I just work hard."

Woman can remain in kitchen

Mrs Jean Wright, aged 51, has won a legal fight to spend her working life cooking and washing up for 150 inmates.

In a 43-page decision, a Birmingham industrial tribunal ruled yesterday that the Prison Officers Association was guilty of sex discrimination by threatening industrial action if the Home Office did not move Mrs Wright from her job as a kitchen supervisor, at the Warrington House detention centre for young offenders in Staffordshire, to other work in a woman's prison.

The tribunal's reserved decision makes it unlawful for a union to strike or threaten action against a woman.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, for the association, had argued that Mrs Wright was a security risk because she could not search the male prisoners.

Teacher 'lost job over baby'

A former convent school teacher, Miss Eileen Flynn, told an employment appeals tribunal in co-Wexford in the Irish Republic yesterday that she lost her job because she became pregnant.

The head of the Holy Faith Order told an earlier hearing that Miss Flynn was dismissed because of her bad example in living with a married man.

Nilsen verdicts

The Hornsey coroner, Dr David Paul, directed a jury yesterday to return verdicts of unlawful killing on nine victims of Dennis Nilsen. Four of the victims were unidentified.

Brittan announces drive against rising drug abuse

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

A British officer is to be stationed in Pakistan to monitor heroin production and a detective is to be seconded to the Dutch police to liaise on drug trafficking as part of measures announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to combat rising drug abuse.

Mr Brittan, speaking at a diplomatic luncheon in London, announced a Government strategy against what he described as "an alarming upsurge in the abuse of dangerous drugs".

Between 1980 and last year heroin seizures rose fivefold, while cocaine seizures this year are already five times larger than in the whole of last year.

The *Times* has been told that the number of new addicts registered by the Home Office rose by more than 40 per cent in the first nine months of this year and the figures are expected to continue rising.

Mr Brittan will not only try to stem heroin trafficking but also strike at abuse of a variety of pharmaceutical drugs. The measures have been under discussion for some time.

Mr Brittan said that the British Government is already working closely with Pakistan - which provides 80 per cent of Britain's illicit heroin - and Britain is now planning to provide £180,000 to strengthen Pakistani policing.

For some time a British customs officer has been working part-time in Karachi. Next year a customs officer will be posted full-time in Pakistan.

At the same time a senior

British police officer will work in The Hague with Dutch police to fight heroin smugglers operating from Holland.

Mr Brittan also announced that the United Kingdom is to sign the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Drugs, which is aimed at controlling the movement of many pharmaceutical drugs often abused in the Third World. Britain has been slow to sign and was in danger of becoming isolated.

The Home Secretary announced that a synthetic opiate called dipipanone or Dicanel would in future be prescribed only by specially licensed doctors. The drug is widely used by young multiple drug abusers and is the centre of a large black market partly fuelled by over-prescribing doctors.

The Misuse of Drugs Act is to be widened to include some of the barbiturate drug family which are also subject to wide abuse.

Mr Brittan said he gave notice that he would not hesitate to issue a temporary order to stop doctors prescribing while they are under investigation for prescribing irresponsibly.

The Home Secretary said he would also seek to introduce legislation for the confiscation by the courts of the proceeds of crime. He said: "We must hit the criminals who profit from the misery of drug addiction and hit them hard".

The final session of the government strategy involves greater education to persuade people, especially the young, not to use drugs.

Wives earn much of home budget

By David Walker

Working wives, who some ministers believe should stay at home, contribute an important sum to family budgets, according to the latest official survey on how the British spend their money.

The average gross weekly income in households in which a married woman goes out to work full or part time is nearly a third higher than in those in which she does not have paid employment, according to the Family Expenditure Survey for last year.

The figures, issued by the Department of Employment, show that between 1981 and last year household income rose, after tax and national insurance by 5½ per cent.

Households spent about £134 a week, divided as the table shows (below).

Comparing the income of households where the breadwinner is unemployed with that of working households, the survey shows a significant drop in their wellbeing between 1981 and last year.

Family Expenditure Survey 1982, Department of Employment (Stationary Office, £14).

| Average weekly household expenditure | |
|---|-------|
| | £ |
| Housing (rent, mortgage, repairs, rates) | 22.29 |
| Fuel, light, power | 8.35 |
| Food | 28.19 |
| Alcoholic drink | 6.13 |
| Tobacco | 1.85 |
| Clothes, shoes | 5.99 |
| Appliances, inc TV and radio | 9.85 |
| Other goods (eg post) | 10.25 |
| Care, public transport | 15.79 |
| Misc (postage, hairdressing, school fees) | 15.37 |

Government sues over cruise leak

The Government sued *The Guardian* newspaper in the High Court in London yesterday in an effort to identify the "mole" who leaked a secret memorandum about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greece.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, Attorney General, asked Mr Justice Scott to order *The Guardian* to hand over, unmutated, a copy of the memorandum delivered anonymously and published in the newspaper.

Mr Simon Brown for the minister and the Attorney General submitted that the Government was entitled to have the document returned unmutated "so that the leakage may be speedily identified and staunch".

The newspaper is resisting the move, claiming that it is entitled to protect its anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum was from Mr Heseltine to the Prime Minister.

Return was sought "to the interests of national security", Mr Brown said. The documents bore original markings and the newspaper's unmutated copy could identify which of the seven originals was leaked.

In a sworn statement read by Lord Rawlinson, QC, for the paper, Mr Peter Preson, the editor, said he considered that the document, could be classified as a political memorandum between colleagues with no national security implications. Judgment is expected today.

Murder case doctor is banned from driving

Dr Robert Jones, whose wife was found murdered in October, was fined £100 yesterday and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Dr Jones, of Lees Farm, Coggeshall, Essex, pleaded guilty at Maldon Magistrates' Court to driving with one and a half times the legal limit of alcohol. He was ordered to pay £50 costs.

The magistrates refused to accept submissions by Mr Oliver Sells, for Dr Jones, that there were special circumstances under which they might consider not disqualifying him. Dr Jones has been under pressure from the publicity surrounding his wife's disappearance, Mr Sells said.

Mrs Diana Jones disappeared on July 23. Her body was found near Brightwell, Suffolk, in October.



Dr Jones after the hearing at Maldon yesterday.

Firms in talks to save TV satellite

By Bill Johnston

Representatives from the companies expecting to design and manufacture the BBC's television satellite met government ministers yesterday in a final attempt to ensure that the £350m project is not aborted.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, and Mr Douglas Hurd, minister responsible for broadcasting, represented the Home Office, and Mr Norman Tehbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, represented the Department of Trade and Industry.

Government advisers are divided on whether the BBC should be directed to sign a contract with the satellite manufacturers.

Police deny using random breath tests

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Sussex Police have denied that they used random drinking checks when they stopped motorists and required them to take a breath test at the start of a Christmas road safety campaign. One in four drivers failed the test.

The times and places of stops were advertised in advance, Mr David Bryant, a Sussex police spokesman, said.

A sample of drivers was stopped for a general check of vehicles under section 159 of the Road Traffic Act, 1972. This says that a driver must comply with a uniformed officer's signal to stop and give an officer time to carry out his duty.

If an officer suspects that a driver, when stopped, has alcohol in his body above the limit a test would be given.

A policeman in uniform may require a breath test to be taken when he reasonably suspects that:

- A person driving, attempting to drive or in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place has alcohol in his body or has committed a moving traffic offence;

- A person who has been driving, attempting to drive or been in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place had alcohol in his body and still has alcohol in his body; or

- A person who has been driving, attempting to drive or been in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place has committed a moving traffic offence.

A policeman, who need not necessarily be in uniform, may require a breath test - if an accident occurs because of the presence of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place from any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe was driving or attempting to drive or was in charge of a vehicle at the time of the accident.

A breath test may be required to be taken at or near the place where the requirement is made or at a police station specified by the policeman if there has been an accident.

A policeman may arrest without warrant any person if he has reasonable cause to suspect that the prescribed

limits are being exceeded or if a person fails to take a breath test.

The breath tests carried out at the roadside are for screening purposes. If the tests show that a driver may be over the limit, he will be taken to a police station for further tests.

A policeman may require a person at a police station to take a breath test unless it is not practicable to use the machine, or the person cannot use it for medical reasons, or it is suspected that the person may have taken drugs. In such cases, a specimen of blood (the usual choice) or urine may be required.

There is no right to ask for a blood or urine test unless the reading from the breath analysis machine is between 35 and 50 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

The police, however, have the right to select which sample is taken.

The prescribed limit of alcohol is 35 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath; 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood; 107 milligrams of

alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

The presumption that the alcohol at the time of the alleged offence was not less than the evidence obtained may be rebutted if the accused person can prove that he or she had consumed alcohol after driving, attempting to drive, or being in charge of the vehicle.

It must also be proved that had this alcohol not been consumed in the intervening period, the prescribed limit would not have been exceeded or the ability to drive not impaired.

There is a statutory defence of "being in charge", if it can be proved that the circumstances at the time were such that there was no likelihood of driving while the prescribed limit was exceeded.

The penalty for refusing to submit to a test without a reasonable excuse is a fine of up to £200. Procedures provide for a driver categorized as a problem drinker being medically examined and being permitted to resume driving only after effective treatment and cure.

PARLIAMENT December 14 1983

Jenkin predicts lower rate bill for some

ENVIRONMENT

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, in a statement to the Commons...

targets for most high spenders represent a cash cut of up to 6 per cent.

In the light of the representations since August, I am proposing three minor changes which will have the effect of increasing targets for some 107 authorities.

The three changes, which all operate to reduce the budget deficit and so increase the resources for local authorities...

Even with these changes, the targets are tough for everyone, they are much tougher on the minority of high spending authorities...

I now come to Grant. Aggregate Expenditure Grant for next year will be £11,900m, £90m more than in the current year...

For authorities which exceed their target, I confirm the pattern of the grant proposed in October. At the rate of 1p for every 1p of overspend...

For next year, there will be an additional disregard of 1p to be applied to the rate of overspend on those community care schemes...

Will be confirmed that the total of targets for 1984/85 has just been announced will be over £400m below local authorities' budgets...

What does he say to the Conservative leader of the Association of County Councils who has described the budget as 'unacceptable and entailing severe cuts in budgets and services'?

The straightfaced successive Tory ministers have placed on local authorities is to be further tightened to the point where budgets and rates will be dictated from Whitehall.

Mr Jenkin: He asked if the targets were not imposed too tough and if local authorities were to be further tightened...

Mr Jenkin: On the contrary, it reflects the needs of high spending authorities because the target methodology is based on the GRE.

Mr Jenkin: Cambridge is not a special case. It is a local authority which stands to gain once we have in our power to curb what he refers to as the loony councils.

Mr Jenkin: We have to look for savings from all authorities. That is why we are not able to limit the rates of the highest spenders...

Mr Jenkin: There are plenty of authorities with majority parties of Conservative Members who have effectively faced up to the responsibility of living within their targets...

Mr Jenkin: He is entitled to his view. No Government has fought harder for an alternative system of local authority finance...

Mr Jenkin: The Government recognises that the targets are tough. The budgeted spending of local authorities is running far ahead of the amounts approved by the House...

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BBC attacked over sex and violence

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government had a compelling obligation to reform and strengthen the television and radio legislation...

Lord Hailsham (Ind) said television had largely replaced books, games, conversation, newspapers, and the cinema as principle sources of entertainment...

Lord Hailsham said: 'What possible justification is there for continuing to tax Scotch whisky much more heavily than imported fortified wines?'

Lord Cockfield, for the Government, replied: 'Tradition and the needs of the revenue (laughter)'.

Lord Bessborough: Does the Government realise that in the modern world, Scotch whisky is about the only thing left that brings guaranteed and sustained comfort to mankind?

What is the purpose of pursuing a policy which, by means of penal taxation on a particular commodity, deprives us of its comfort except for the comparatively well-to-do...

Lord Cockfield: I appreciate his sentiments. Taxation on Scotch whisky raises approximately £1,200m a year which is not an insignificant sum...

Lord Bessborough: This is the nature of the medicine, could it be referred to the committee that deals with peers' expenses with the suggestion it be included as being set against expenses incurred (laughter)?

Lord Cockfield: Unfortunately I am not responsible for the committee on peers' expenses. The Government has taken a number of measures to assist the whisky industry...

Lord Bessborough: This is a whisky drinker's paradise. A tax free day might be worth considering to celebrate Lord Bessborough's 100th birthday...

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Peers claim whisky is medicine

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Parliament today

COMMISSIONS

Telecommunications Bill, second reading. Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange) Bill, second reading.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Trade and Industry, called for a major change in the way the Government handles the whisky industry...

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BUPA plans to build its first old people's home

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The British United Provident Association is building a residential home for the frail elderly in Milton Keynes, in a radical departure from its traditional role of providing private health care and hospitals funded by insurance.

The 36-place home, which will cost £5m, will include six places for the mentally infirm, with a place expected to cost between £150 and £175 a week, a rate described by BUPA as 'very competitive'.

The places will not be covered by BUPA insurance. Those living there will have to finance their stay from their own or relatives' income or from the newly-established Department of Health and Social Security payments for accommodation in residential nursing homes if they are on supplementary benefit.

BUPA subscribers, however, are likely to receive priority for places in the home. Mr Derek Damerell, chief executive of BUPA, said that the project was experimental. The home will be aimed chiefly at the over-75s, the "frail elderly", whose number is expected to grow significantly in the next few years.

At the moment, he said, the home was "a one-off". "We have made absolutely no decision on where we go from here," but if the scheme went well, it was possible other similar homes could follow.

Call for 'free' royal commissions

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Douglas's suggestion is unlikely to find favour with his former master, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Sir Peter, becoming Prime Minister in 1979, she has not founded one royal commission.

In the code used by former officials, an indirect attack on the more dogmatic Thatcherism was detectable when Sir Douglas turned to the need for research and evidence as a basis for policy-making.

"There are some politicians, of a more ideological cast of mind, who are unenthusiastic. Facts can be uncomfortable bedfellows alongside dogmatic conviction."

Sir Douglas's reason for backing a "super" royal commission was his desire for public knowledge and participation to be enriched.

Appointments would be for a fixed period. They would reflect a spread of ages, backgrounds, and professions. The crucial link between the subject matter of investigation and the government of the day, which in the past has always picked it, would be broken.

Behind the leader, a seething ambition

One of the laws of British politics is that while the open combat is between parties, the competition that really matters, to a politician is within his own party.

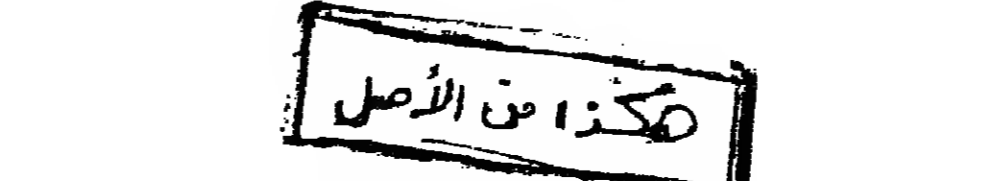
In the Labour Party he will need the support of his peers to be elected to the Shadow Cabinet. In any party he will have to win the favour of his superiors to be given office.

Behind any leader there is a mass of seething, frustrated ambition, striving for the attention of the party. If he fails to take account of that he will not long retain the confidence of his supporters; but so long as he is sustained by his party he will not come to much harm in the House of Commons.

The critical parliamentary moments are not when both sides are shouting at each other. It is when one is on the rampage and the other is sitting in embarrassed silence. But for a politician really to exercise authority in the house he must command attention from members of other parties as well.

This comes most easily when they are simply interested to hear what he has to say. Dr Owen, especially on foreign affairs, is listened to with respect these days. Mr Healey has been providing his new leader with an object lesson in the art of harrying a government at the drop of any international crisis. He has done this partly by displaying his massive knowledge of foreign affairs with optimistic skill; and partly by force of personality. He has the experience and the confidence that comes from the extinction of hope. He knows now that he can never make it to the top.

Force of personality is also Mr Tebbit's greatest parliamentary strength. He gives the impression of being sure of himself and his subject matter. Even for his most hostile critics he has a certain macabre fascination. They may shout at him, but they listen too.



Seasonal cheer: The Queen at the opening of Newham General Hospital in the East End of London, yesterday, with Lady Sherman, chairman of Newham Health Authority. After unveiling a plaque the Queen asked the date - she that she could sign the visitors' book. Lady Sherman told her it was December 16, and it was left to a member of the audience to correct her. The Queen then toured the hospital, visiting two mixed surgical wards.

Advertisement for Franco-S on Bas ends in... Ransom demands... Stolen Chris... MED... There's a choice... Now you will have... you will prove... After all this, you will...

مكتبة الأصيل

Franco-Spanish concord on Basque terrorism ends in renewed tension

From Diana Geddes, Paris

After a brief honeymoon period between the French and Spanish authorities over the Basque terrorist issue following the election of a Socialist Government in Spain and promises of greater cooperation by the French, there is renewed tension between the two countries, amounting at times to exasperation and anger.

Spanish police feel that the French police are not doing nearly enough to crack down on members or supporters of ETA, the Spanish Basque terrorist organization, who have taken refuge in the French Basque country. French police feel that the Spanish police are flagrantly disrespecting French sovereignty by coming uninvited across the border in hot pursuit of suspected terrorists.

In October, four Spanish policemen were arrested in Bayonne after being caught red-handed in what looked like an attempt to "kidnap" a suspected leading ETA member as he was riding through the town on his motor cycle.

A French policeman saw four men in an unmarked car apparently deliberately crash into the motor cyclist. He intervened and the men, all of whom turned out to be members of the Spanish anti-terrorist squad, were charged with

premeditated wounding and imprisoned. They were released last week, however, for want of sufficient evidence to bring the case to court.

Yesterday M Segundo Marey, aged 51, a businessman of Spanish origin from the French Basque border town of Hendays, was released after being kidnaped 10 days earlier by a previously unknown group calling itself the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group.

An anonymous caller to a radio station in San Sebastian on the Spanish side of the border telephoned yesterday morning to say M Marey's kidnapping was a "warning" and that the group wanted to reply "blow by blow" to the violence perpetrated by ETA. The caller went on to make threats against French interests and personalities in Europe.

A similar message, written in broken French strewn with Spanish turns of phrase, was discovered on M Marey when he was found cold and blindfolded under a tree near the frontier. The French police say that they think it was a case of mistaken identity. M Marey having been taken for an ETA sympathizer when he had no known political connexion of any kind.

However, two days after M Marey's kidnapping, an anonymous

caller telephoned the Red Cross in San Sebastian to say that he would be set free in exchange for the release of the four Spanish policemen.

Maitre Jacques Torunaire, lawyer for the Spanish Consulate in Bayonne, who defended the four Spanish policemen, said that the Spanish Government was "exasperated" by the failure of the French authorities to cooperate with the Spanish police in their attempts to stamp out Basque terrorism.

Since the Socialists had come to power in Spain just over a year ago, there had been 500 ETA victims in Spain, including 49 deaths, he said. "Nowadays the terrorists do so because of what they have done, not because of what they think. Everyone knows perfectly well that the ETA leadership meets regularly on the French side of the border", he added.

Extradition refused: The French Government yesterday refused "for legal reasons" a Spanish request to extradite Señor Juan Domingo Martínez, an alleged extreme right-wing militant, who was condemned to death by the Spanish courts last July for the murder of a Communist militant in Madrid in May 1980.



Toast to peace: President-elect Lasinchi of Venezuela (right) and President Monge of Costa Rica raise their glasses after the latter's arrival in Caracas for talks on the Central American crisis.

Walesa falls ill and refuses summons

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate yesterday refused to obey an official summons to the prosecutor's office saying that he had fever, and back pains.

Some of Mr Walesa's aides had suspected that the summons could be an attempt to dissuade the former union chief from delivering a speech tomorrow that is intended to chart Solidarity's future course. Last year, when Mr Walesa announced his intention of making a speech, he was bundled into a car by plain clothes policemen and driven around the town of Gdansk for several hours.

A spokesman for the Walesa household said yesterday that he had fever - a temperature of 38.4C (about 101F) - and rheumatic back pains. Implicitly, friends of Mr Walesa have linked his ailment with the harassment handed out by police on the long journey on Tuesday to Gdansk from Czestechowa - where he dedicated his Nobel medal to the Virgin Mary.

Tomorrow is the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of workers on the Baltic coast, and Mr Walesa had hoped to make use of the symbolism of that event, to present his new programme. The Solidarity underground has also called for protest marches.

Contras sink their differences

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The two main groups of anti-Sandinista rebels are to begin coordinating their guerrilla attacks in northern Nicaragua. The announcement at a press conference in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, is the first real sign that the rival *contras* bands, are putting aside their deep differences and uniting their efforts to topple the Government in Managua.

The Costa Rica-based Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (Arde), led by the renegade Sandinista hero, Señor Edén Pastora, said it was forming a northern front, to fight its way down through the huge eastern province of Zelaya and join up with the main Arde force in the south.

A team of four Arde representatives said they have already held talks on coordinating operations with leaders of the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), which is based in Honduras.

In the past, Señor Pastora has shunned the FDN because its guerrillas are trained and led in the field by former members of the notorious National Guard of the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza.



Alexis Argüello: Fighting in the mountains.

Tegucigalpa, Señor Miguel Uros Blanco, said his recruits in the north would receive training alongside the FDN. Arms were not immediately available, but supporters in El Salvador had donated 1,000 pairs of boots.

Though the FDN is the largest of the five groups of

contras, Arde's development has been the most dramatic. It began fighting in M with only 300 men, and now claims to have 7,000 armed guerrillas in southern Nicaragua and another 2,000 awaiting weapons.

The US special envoy, Mr Richard Stone, visited Central America recently to convince the *contras* to work together. There have been suggestions in Washington that unless they do so, aid and producing solid military results, their CIA funds may be withdrawn.

A Sandinista amnesty for rank-and-file guerrillas, designed to woo rebel peasants away from their squabbling leadership, may be another reason why the *contras* feel they must now start acting in unison.

The *contras* are nothing if not a bizarre collection. Speaking at the press conference was Nicaragua's former world boxing champion Alexis Argüello, who said he had been fighting with Señor Pastora in the mountains for the past months.

Señor Argüello held three world titles at different weights during a long career. He defeated Britain's Jim Watt for the lightweight crown in London in 1981.

Trudeau lashes out at his critics

From John Best, Ottawa

The Canadian Prime Minister Mr Pierre Trudeau, has turned his back on Canadians eagerly awaiting word on his retirement, and on "pipsqueaks" in the Pentagon who have taken to sniping at his peace initiative.

At a Liberal Party fund-raising

dinner in Toronto on Tuesday, the Prime Minister gave every indication that he intends to pursue his initiative.

The dinner, which drew 4,000 party faithful at about £140 a plate, was billed as "The Last Supper" by many who thought that Mr Trudeau might

use the occasion to signal his imminent departure.

Feastingly, he intimated that his remaining time should be reckoned in years rather than weeks, days or months. "I'm sorry that this will be the last supper for some of you. I'll miss you next year."

Der Spiegel faces court action on Lambsdorff

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The Bonn Public Prosecutor is considering whether to proceed against the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* for publishing extracts from the text of the corruption charges against Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister.

The prosecutor has already asked his Hamburg colleague to open investigations into the magazine's latest report on the affair, and to compare this with the text of the official accusations. Lengthy quotation of such charges before a court case is brought is forbidden under German law.

Inquiries are also going on at the Justice Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia to find the source of the leak in the past year. *Der Spiegel* has published long and accurate accounts of the prosecutor's investigations.

Count Lambsdorff, who is accused of accepting bribes from the Flick group of companies in exchange for tax concessions, has made no statement on his future. But after reading the charges, his colleagues in the coalition Government now appear to have rallied behind him, and believe that there is no reason for him to resign.

The Government does not expect the Bonn court to decide before April whether to stage a trial, and coalition circles tend to think that it will decide against doing so. Both the Christian Democrats and the count's colleagues in the Free Democratic Party feel that he would make a fool of himself if he were to resign now, only to have the charges dismissed some months later.

Chancellor Kohl is expected to have a long talk with the count soon and then decide himself whether to keep him in office. The affair was probably also discussed on Tuesday at the Chancellor's meeting with Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Prime Minister.

The affair appears to have had little effect on the Government's popularity, which the latest opinion polls show to be now greater than it was before the debate on the deployment of Nato missiles.

A poll by the Allensbach Institute showed that 50.7 per cent of those asked would now vote for the Christian Democrats and 39 per cent for the Social Democrats. Both the Free Democrats and the Greens did poorly, however.

Ransom demanded for stolen Christ's robe

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

A seamless woollen robe, traditionally believed to be that worn by Jesus Christ on His way to the Cross for which the Roman soldiers drew lots, has been stolen from the St Denis Basilica in Argenteuil, to the north of Paris, where it has been kept for the past 1,200 years.

An anonymous caller telephoned the Paris newspaper *Libération* on Monday night, before the theft had even been discovered, to demand as "ransom" the release from prison of three alleged members of an extreme leftist French terrorist group, and the payment out of Roman Catholic church funds of 300,000 francs (£25,000) to the Polish Solidarity movement in return for the robe.

The caller, who sounded excited and not very coherent, said: "The Church can afford to

pay because it has the Prince of Monaco's money. And then, Jesus Christ was a revolutionary who was killed by religious imperialists."

A spokesman for the bishopric of Pontoise, in whose diocese St Denis Basilica lies, said yesterday that it did not intend to interfere in the work of the police.

The robe, which is a dark red-purple colour, stained with blood, was extremely fragile and for that reason was shown to the public only once every 50 years, the spokesman said. It was next due to be exhibited in 1984.

Tests undertaken last year showed that the robe dated back to the beginning of the Christian era. It is said to be given by Charlemagne in the year 800 to his daughter Théodora, abbess at Argenteuil.

Pentagon spies hooked on dial-a-porn

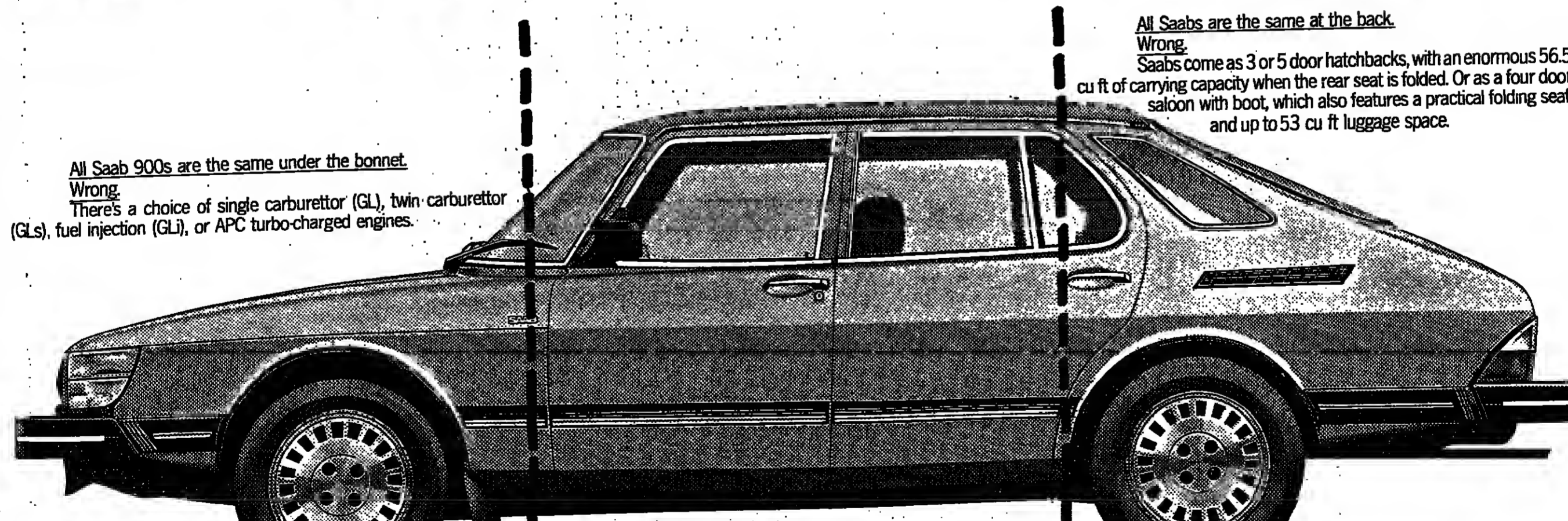
Critics of the Reagan Administration, who have denounced present high levels of defence spending as "obscene", have found that their criticism has been proved in a most unexpected way.

The Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's version of the CIA, has been spending around \$25,000 (£18,000) a month on calls to a New York "dial-a-porn" number.

The Pentagon's Inspector-General said in his semi-annual report to Congress that the cost of such unauthorized use of the telephones could be as much as \$300,000 a year.

Following his recommendations, an electronic "block" has been placed on the New York number which is offered by a sex magazine called *High Society* and which provides a recorded message of a woman's voice describing sex acts.

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE OF A SAAB



All Saabs are the same at the back. Wrong. Saabs come as 3 or 5 door hatchbacks, with an enormous 56.5 cu ft of carrying capacity when the rear seat is folded. Or as a four door saloon with boot, which also features a practical folding seat and up to 53 cu ft luggage space.

All Saab 900s are the same under the bonnet. Wrong. There's a choice of single carburettor (GL), twin carburettor (GLs), fuel injection (GLi), or APC turbo-charged engines.

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By now you will have discovered that despite appearances, Saabs can be as individual as you wish. On the other hand, because we never compromise on necessities for sake of appearances, you'll find every Saab has headlamp wash-wipes, daytime running lights, self repairing bumpers, all round asbestos-free disc brakes, one of the strongest passenger safety cages in the automotive world, and as a test drive will prove, front wheel drive and 60% weight over the driven wheels makes a Saab handle like a sports car. **SAAB 900 FROM £7,320.**

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Israel hints officially it will not try to attack or kidnap Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Despite a string of bellicose public statements, the impression was growing yesterday that the Israelis would not attempt to attack or kidnap Mr Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organization leader, since he was aboard a foreign ship being evacuated from the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

The first hint of this was given by Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, who told the French newspaper, *Le Monde* during an interview in Geneva that the Israeli Government did not "have the least intention of attacking the PLO Men once the evacuation was under way."

There was considerable anger in government circles here at Mr Levy's claim, which undermined the carefully orchestrated Cabinet policy of maintaining the suspense until the last possible moment by publicly refusing to give any public guarantee of the type being requested by a number of foreign governments.

One immediate result of what several observers were describing last night as "Mr Levy's waffle" was to further reduce his chances of securing the quick promotion to Foreign Minister which he has been demanding from Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister who defeated him in the party vote to find a successor to Ari'el Sharon.

Senior officials tried to restore the menacing note of ambiguity to Israel's policy which has so far disrupted all evacuation plans and led Mr Arafat to look towards the possibility of a "dangerous" journey to Syria rather than risk facing the Israeli naval force patrolling the rough seas outside Tripoli harbour.

But backing for Mr Levy's assertion appeared to come from Mr Moshe Barak, the Communications Minister who said in Tel Aviv that although Israel had given no guarantee to "the PLO terrorists", as a law-abiding nation, it would not attack foreign vessels. This had been the assumption made privately by a number of senior Western diplomats.

They regard Israel's policy of threats and brinkmanship as a calculated form of psychological warfare designed to delay the evacuation and in increase the chances of renewed intercommunal warfare between the two PLO factions. The Shamir Government has shown undisguised delight in the fighting around Tripoli to date.

On a point of principle, the Israelis are anxious to point out what they see as the hypocrisy of the international community in offering to guarantee the safety of men described by one official here as a band of cut-throats. The Cabinet is also mindful of a strong current of public opinion which is passionately opposed to the idea of permitting Mr Arafat a safe passage, particularly after

the carnage caused by last week's PLO bomb on a Jerusalem bus. Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, has already cast himself in the role of leader of this populist stream by demanding Mr Arafat's "physical liquidation" in Tripoli. One Israeli source explained: "The Government has to be careful not to provide Mr Dharon with too much of a boost by turning him down flat."

The air of confusion was increased yesterday when the Defence Ministry issued a formal denial of a prominent report in Israel radio that the US has warned Israel not to interfere with the evacuation. The radio report said that the warning has been given on Monday at a meeting in America between Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the Deputy Secretary of State.

In another development, Mr Yitzhak Mod'el, the Energy Minister, who called first for Israeli action to capture Mr Arafat (and presumably place him on trial in Israel) attempted to reduce the effect of Mr Levy's claim.

Mr Mod'el had not given and did not intend to give any promise that it would not attack Mr Arafat and his forces when they pulled out of Tripoli. He added ominously that Israel's policy was to "give no quarter in the battle against the terrorists."

On the face of it, Mr Arafat could probably do without Syrian jets flying over his head, although he must have realised that Syria would not put aircraft into the air over Tripoli. Lebanese officials close to Mr Arafat have been given to understand that Israel will not intercept a PLO evacuation but that Israel might well bombard the PLO positions in Tripoli before the Palestinian departure

to achieve the withdrawal of all uninvited foreign forces. He also reported on the progress begun at Geneva, towards reconciliation among the warring factions.



Downing Street meeting: President Gemayel with Mrs Thatcher yesterday.

Comforting words for Gemayel

British support would continue. She referred to the "essential task" of reconciliation and to the restoration of Lebanese sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, were present for all or part of the Downing Street talks.

President Gemayel later saw the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

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British MEPs may prevent freeze on £457m rebate

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament looks set today to vote to hold up payment of Britain's £457m budget rebate - but a strong lobby by British Euro-MPs of both parties may yet prevent the freeze from being implemented.

The Parliament's own budget committee is recommending that the money is held in reserve and only released against assurances from member-states that it is spent on true Community policies.

The intention is to release it by March, which is Mrs Margaret Thatcher's deadline. This would be after the next European summit, when the Parliament hopes that essential Community reforms can at last be agreed.

For the freeze to be legally agreed, a minimum of 218 Euro-MPs will have to vote in favour of it and last night it seemed unlikely that this total would be reached. The British Conservative and Labour members have joined forces to oppose the move and yesterday evening they were seeking support from their traditional allies in other countries to help them.

But the Conservatives, unlike Labour, are not likely to vote to reject the entire EEC budget for next year. Although many of them were outraged by the attempt to freeze the British money, the advice from Downing Street was that it would be wrong to risk the anger which would be caused if the budget were rejected.

Even so, some Conservative members were so outraged that they were talking last night of voting to reject the budget in protest at the discriminatory way in which they believed the Parliament had been advised by its committee about the British money.

The budget committee decided yesterday to recommend members to block the British money after a futile meeting with a special budget council in Strasbourg the previous evening.

The council showed rare unanimity in opposing any of the ideas which the Parliament wants to see followed for changing the way budget money is spent.

But the budget committee has backed away from a direct confrontation with the council in pushing for the budget to be approved in today's vote. Unlike the British MEPs, most members are anxious not to offend the agricultural lobby in the run-up to the direct election in June.

Mr Neil Balfour, the Conservative spokesman for the budget committee, said that to discriminate against Britain would be "an insensitive act." He said that the Parliament ought not to nip the waffle of the British Government just because it has not got the courage of its own convictions.

Mrs Barbara Castle, leader of the Labour group, called on Mrs Thatcher to withhold payment to the Community budget and start to act. Mrs Castle said: "I say stop sagging Maggie and start to act". Mrs Castle said: "I say stop sagging Maggie and start to act".

She said Mrs Thatcher should in future only pay the amount she offered during the European summit in Athens, roughly £23m a month out of Britain's current £100m net contribution. "We are calling on Mrs Thatcher to give us some leadership in this wretched situation," Mrs Castle said.

We are having to bail her out from her own recklessness. So is any posture and no performance. It is Mrs Thatcher who is putting the money in the farmers' Christmas stockings.

Hospital ship in Tripoli today

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

An Italian hospital ship is expected to arrive in Tripoli today to evacuate the wounded. The ship is carrying 100 patients and 100 crew members.

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Poltergeists under suspicion as nanny's mother testifies

From Peter Nichols, Lyons

Carol Compton, the 21-year-old Scottish girl on trial here for attempted murder and arson, watched pale and detached on the third day of hearings as her mother gave evidence about life at home in Aberdeen.

Mrs Pamela Compton, aged 40, was required by the court to answer only two questions. She said she found both of them "degrading". One concerned the quarrelling and the drinking habits of the girl's father, and the second referred to the age when her daughter had her first period.

Before giving this brief testimony Mrs Compton was warned that she was bound to the truth like any other witness, despite the fact that she was the defendant's mother.

Her testimony followed the revival of interest in the possible place of poltergeists in the series of five fires which brought about Miss Compton's arrest in August, 1982 on the island of Elba, and her arraignment before the court of assizes.

Dr Guido Galligani, the presiding judge, asked Mrs Compton to speak clearly and simply, so doubt recalling difficulties in translation on the first day of proceedings. It was Mrs Compton herself who immediately encountered the obstacle of language and had to have the first question repeated.

Asked if she quarrelled in front of her daughter with her father, she replied: "No, he didn't have any problems in the mind. He just liked his little drink. When he got a bit tipsy I would send the children down to the grandmother so that I could keep my husband quiet."

In answer to the question about her daughter's first menstruation she said: "I remember it very well, as mothers do. It was just before her fourteenth birthday."

Asked if she did not mean when Miss Compton was 16, she said with a certain harsh dignity: "She makes mistakes, I make mistakes, you make mistakes. Does this make us stupid?" Apparently during interrogations her daughter had spoken of the age of 16.

Earlier in the day a witness, Signora Ancilla Cecchini, the grandmother of the child whom Miss Compton is said to have tried to kill, recounted strange things that she said had happened at her home on Elba after Miss Compton arrived. A glassplate and a metal cake dish fell to the floor without apparently being touched.

Signora Cecchini recalled the remark she made at the time: "Good heavens, there are spirits in our home". The hearing continues today.

Germany given grim warning on birthrate

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Unless German women produce 200,000 more babies every year, the German population will fall from 56.9m at present to only 38.3m in less than 30 years, with drastic consequences for defence, education and the labour market.

This warning was issued yesterday by the Federal Interior Secretary in Bonn, after discussing the country's working population with the German Government.

For the past 10 years the Federal Republic has had the lowest birthrate in the world and the population has been falling steadily since 1972. The birthrate is now 1.2 per cent, below replacement level.

The Government has been worried by the fact that there have been regular warnings for couples to have three or four children.

Special inter-ministerial working groups will be set up to deal with the problem of a falling population in schools. The number of pupils that its regular schools will be serious consequences will be unremedied.

The working population will be growing progressively smaller and people will be increasingly dependent on the state for their maintenance.

Germany's population will be 56.9 million at present, but will fall to 38.3 million in less than 30 years.

The report outlines the way the balance between young and old people will alter. At present, the birthrate is 1.2 per cent, which will fall to 0.8 per cent by the year 2000 and 0.3 per cent by 2030.

By 2000, 63 per cent of the population will be over 40 years of age, up from 55 per cent at present. By 2030, 75 per cent will be over 40.

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Argentina to put three Presidents on trial

From Douglas Incedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsin has ordered the trial on murder and torture charges of nine leaders of the military regime which seized power in 1976. He also called on Congress to enact a sweeping package of human rights reforms.

Promising to restore the rule of law in Argentina, Senator Alfonsin announced on a broadcast speech on Tuesday night that he had ordered the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to try the first three military juntas which ruled Argentina after the 1976 coup.

He said he was also seeking the prosecution of seven left-wing terrorist leaders active during the early 1970s. "The aberrant human rights violations committed by terrorists and by the repression of them cannot remain unpunished," he said.

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London and Bonn sign war pact

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Britain and West Germany have signed a military pact which will enable British troops to be sent to Germany in times of crisis.

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Casamance separatists jailed by Senegal

From Susan MacDonagh, Dakar

For the first time in 20 years of Senegalese independence a group of 48 separatists have been brought to trial and given sentences ranging from two to five years in jail for disturbing the public order and acts against the state. Eight defendants were freed.

For a year trouble has been brewing in the southern Casamance region of Senegal where a group of separatists calling themselves the Movement of Democratic Forces for Independence in the Casamance have been agitating. Three policemen were killed last week after it is said, entering a "sacred" area while some form of meeting was in progress.

There are about 500,000 people in the Casamance and a number of them would like to furnish with the Government. In fact, they are virtually cut off from the rest of Senegal. The Government feel that this has been done by Senegal to resolve their difficulties and link them to the rest of the country.

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From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

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The pact will allow British troops to be sent to Germany in times of crisis. It is a significant step in the relationship between the two countries.

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Kohl 'go it alone' EEC call denied

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday dismissed as "absolutely absurd" reports that the Chancellor Kohl had called for the six founding members of the European Community to go it alone including European policy.

The spokesman said this was totally at odds with West German policy, which aims at agreement by all Community members, and which supported the package agreement worked out during the German presidency at the Stuttgart summit in the summer.

What the Chancellor now wants from all 10 members is a return to what he called the spirit of Messina, the town in Italy where the treaty which created the Community was signed in 1957.

Her, Walter, the President of the Party, said that the Chancellor had appealed to the members of the Community to have a special resolution towards it to act as a motor among the other members to get things going. His speech at the meeting of the party's executive, did not mean that he wanted to restrict the EEC to those six.

Zimbabwe sacks white airmen

Harare (Reuters) - Zimbabwe has terminated the employment contracts of three detained white Air Force officers, Mr Eddison Zvobgo, the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, said.

But he told parliament that the officers, redeployed in August under emergency powers after being acquitted of helping to sabotage Zimbabwe's main base last year, would receive their pensions and any other money owed to them. The officers are Wing Commander John Cox and Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Neville Weir.

Christmas pay

Copenhagen (AP) - Fifteen mainly Latin American seamen prepared to fly home considerably richer than expected when a seamen's union agreed to pressure from the Danish seamen's union to share a \$20,000 between them. Seamen had threatened to sabotage ferries over Christmas unless the money was paid.

Brynner better

Geneva (AP) - France (AP) - Brynner, the actor, said here that he feels "absolutely fantastic" and is confident that his lung cancer has been cured. "I'm booked in Bali for this February in *The King of Kings* and we plan a run of about a year."

Baby rescued

Nairobi (AP) - A six-month-old baby buried alive for nearly a year was rescued by a man who dug her from a heap of soil mixed with rubbish and bricks after hearing faint cries. The baby's 17-year-old mother was arrested.

Runcie reticent

Reading (AP) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, met leaders of the anti-vatican Chinese Catholic Church during his pilgrimage to China.

Player accused

Stockholm (AP) - A Soviet ice hockey player on a visit to Sweden with his national team, has been charged with stealing \$90 worth of goods from a department store. He will appear in court today.

Bargain riot

Johannesburg (AP) - Christmas shoppers crowding to get into a sale at four chain stores crashed through display windows, injuring 30 and causing chaos among the racks. One of the injured was seriously ill.

Detainees freed

Dhaka (Reuters) - General Ershad, Bangladesh's military ruler, ordered the release of 200 political detainees held during recent anti-government unrest.

Fool's gold

Sydney (Reuters) - Australia's largest uncut sapphire was among diamonds, gold and jewels worth more than £2m taken by a confidence trickster who bought a reputable jewelry firm and advertised for gems to be put on exhibition. When he got the jewels he vanished.

مكتبة من الأصل

Nakasone puts on white gloves for his most crucial campaign

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

White gloves and loudspeakers are two prominent symbols of how Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) wages an election campaign. Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, made heavy use of both this week on the campaign trail as speculation mounts over how the party will fare in this Sunday's general election.

The main question being asked in Tokyo is not whether the conservative LDP will lose its absolute majority in the Lower House, that seems inevitable. What remains to be seen is how much of a setback Mr Nakasone can absorb without having his position as party leader undermined. He is therefore campaigning hard.

Soon after noon on Tuesday, the Prime Minister's convoy pulled up at the edge of a small park in Chiba city's District One, a traditional stronghold for the conservatives one hour's drive along an impressive industrial belt which stretches eastward along Tokyo Bay from the capital. Chiba illustrates both the LDP's strengths and, paradoxically, why conservatives are their own worst enemies at election time.

White gloves on, Mr Nakasone climbs atop a banner-topped campaign bus, flanked by three local LDP candidates. His style is mildly demagogic. He launches a vigorous defence of his policies, laced with appeals to Japanese national pride.

The crowd responds warmly when the Prime Minister calls for the most thorough reform of the educational system stage the reign of the current Emperor

began 58 years ago, and criticizes the Russians for occupying since the Second World War, four islands off northern Hokkaido.

The nationalistic Mr Nakasone was preaching to the converted. But there is trouble in Chiba District One, and in a number of the nation's 130 electoral districts, where the LDP or rather its fiercely competing internal factions have fielded an unusually large number of candidates. In several cases they are competing against each other, and with a raft of "independent" conservatives. This risks splitting the conservative vote to the delight of the opposition.

In Chiba One, the LDP held three of four seats before the election was called. Eight candidates are vying for votes this time. Three are from the LDP and shared the stage with Mr Nakasone. A fourth, former LDP member of the Diet, making a comeback as an independent, may be the spoiler for the party but paradoxically is a member of Mr Nakasone's personal faction.

Jokeying for factional position within the party is most blatant in the case of the Tanaka faction, the biggest in



Mr Nakasone: Appeals to Japanese national pride.

the LDP, whose leader, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, was more responsible than anyone else for forcing Mr Nakasone, against his better judgment, into a December election in the first place.

Mr Tanaka's conviction on October 12 for taking 500m yen (£1.4m) in bribes from Lockheed while in office touched off the events which tried, with limited success, to make Mr Tanaka and political ethics into the burning main issue of the election. Mr Tanaka, however, is virtually assured of reelection as an independent (he quit the LDP after being arrested in 1976) in his rural home district.

This sort of internal competition is one reason why the LDP will probably see the stunning 284-seat (out of 511 in the Lower House) majority won three and half years ago whittled down considerably.

In his speeches Mr Nakasone, who is 65, clearly was trying to attract large blocks of floating votes, especially housewives who tend to vote conservative but tend to vote more frequently than men.

At one point, Mr Nakasone urged the generally chauvinistic men of his generation to treat their wives better. "Hold your wife's hand," he implored. He also pledged to channel profits from legalized gambling and other sources into cancer research. For part-time working women, the Prime Minister promised tax breaks.

His favourite theme, however, is moral education. Japan's schools, he says must repeatedly teach young children sound Japanese morals: respect for parents, honesty and respect for ancestors. Whether Japanese voters will teach the LDP a lesson in morals is still difficult to predict.



Plea that failed: Mrs Rosella Williams, who is a preacher, with her son Robert, pleading for his life before a Louisiana pardon board last week.

Killer executed in Louisiana

Angola, Louisiana (AP) - Robert Wayne Williams, convicted in the shotgun killing of an elderly supermarket guard during a robbery, was electrocuted early yesterday, the first execution in Louisiana in 22 years.

Williams, aged 31, was put to death at the state prison in Angola after Governor Dave Treen, a federal judge, an appeals court, and the Supreme Court refused to spare his life.

At 1.02 am the prison warden Mr Ross Maggio and

guards accompanied Williams on the 100ft walk from the death cell to the shed where the electric chair sits. The switch on the chair was pulled four minutes later and Williams was pronounced dead after nine minutes.

The execution was delayed for about an hour by Governor Treen so the high court could consider a last-minute appeal by Williams's lawyers.

Williams's mother, Mrs Rosella Williams, a short, slender, soft-spoken preacher,

joined friends in a prayer vigil outside the prison gates. Family members had testified during pardon board hearings that Williams attended church regularly and sang in the choir. In his teens, they testified, he fell in with the wrong crowd and got involved with drugs.

Meanwhile, a convicted murderer who had been scheduled to die in Georgia's electric chair yesterday was a stay of execution; but a second condemned man in that state lost a late appeal for his sentence.

Australia softens nuclear line

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

The Federal Government has eased its hardline stand on the issue of nuclear vessels using Australian dry dock facilities, and promised to consult with its allies and explain its position in an effort to defuse what has become a highly embarrassing issue for Canberra.

The new guidelines, released on Tuesday, would allow allied ships carrying nuclear arms to go into dry dock in Australia in emergencies. They were outlined after the United States expressed concern over the denial of dry dock facilities to the British aircraft carrier Invincible last week.

Senator Gareth Evans, the Attorney-General and spokesman in the Senate for both the defence and Foreign Ministers, yesterday faced a barrage of questions in the upper house over the Invincible issue. He

insisted that the Government's policy was clear but might have to be explained in more detail to Australia's allies.

The Invincible issue and the involvement of the United States is particularly embarrassing to Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, who has been at pains to ally Washington's concern over the election of a Labour government. The Prime Minister has also gone to great lengths on recent overseas trips to stress the importance that Australia attaches to its international defence obligations.

The original decision on the question of Invincible's access to dry dock facilities at the Navy's Garden Island Dockyard, in Sydney harbour, was made by Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, without reference to Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister.

Mr Scholes has since come under fire from the Opposition, and it is understood that members of the Labour Party caucus are also uneasy about the Invincible decision. There has been speculation that Mr Scholes might be moved from his portfolio.

The issue has given the federal Opposition a field day, allowing it to claim that the Labour Government is damaging both the Anzus Treaty and the five-power defence arrangements which include Australia and Britain.

There is no doubt that the issue has aroused US concern. Mr Stephen Lyne, a senior official at the Embassy in Canberra, saw the head of the Foreign Affairs Department as early as last Saturday, seeking clarification of Australian policy.

America keeps open space station option

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The United States is likely to go ahead with preliminary work on a permanent manned space station. It would provide a base for lunar and planetary exploration and would be a factory for making new materials in a gravity-free environment. It might also have a role in the development of space weapons.

President Reagan is expected to announce funding for planning work on a space station in the budget for the fiscal year beginning October next year. The New York Times reported yesterday.

The sum set aside will be small, between £70m-£130m, but this will keep the space station option open while the Administration considers whether to commit itself to the huge expense of a full-scale space station programme.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) believes that the success of the nine space shuttle missions has helped to convince the Reagan Administration of the feasibility and desirability of an orbiting station manned by a fulltime crew of astronauts, engineers and scientists.

There are hopes that the President, perhaps in his State of the Union message in January, will set out a commitment to a full-scale programme and try to arouse public enthusiasm for more exploration, in the manner of President Kennedy's call for a moon landing in the 1960s.

But the space and science world in the United States is divided over the need for a space station. Some scientists say a station's functions could be performed by space shuttles staying in orbit for up to seven weeks at a time.

The question of a full commitment to a space station is being considered alongside that of space weapons following President Reagan's "Star Wars" speech of last March, in which he called for a system of space-based laser weapons able to destroy long-range missiles.

The two projects might have to compete for funds, or the space station might have a weapons development role. But serious doubts have been raised here about the feasibility of "Star Wars" weapons.

Engineers and computer specialists are meanwhile trying to find out what went wrong onboard the space shuttle Columbia last week. It was revealed yesterday that there was a fire and explosion onboard the spacecraft in the last minutes of its journey.

As it approached Edwards Air Force base in California after its 10-day mission, fuel leaked in an auxiliary power unit in the rear of the craft and caught fire when it touched a hot surface.

The next shuttle mission is scheduled for the end of January. It will be delayed if the cause of computer failures in the last mission is not found and rectified.

Spanish Communists face biggest crisis

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Communist Party began its eleventh hour congress here yesterday in a state of complete disarray. Formerly one of Western Europe's most influential and formidable Euro-Communist parties, it is now bogged down in personal conflicts.

In the wake of its humiliating performance in last year's general election, when it received only 3.9 per cent of the popular vote, the party is now split between the followers of Señor Gerardo Iglesias, the 38-year-old General-secretary, and Señor Santiago Carrillo, Spain's veteran Communist leader who personally put the younger man in his job 13 months ago.

Allegations of opportunism and even disobedience have been hurled by the aging and embittered Señor Carrillo at the young general-secretary, whose basic strategy has been to try to

win back former party members who were expelled when Señor Carrillo ruled the party with Stalinist methods.

The main task of the more than 800 delegates, between now and Sunday when the congress ends, will be either to patch together some sort of compromise in the name of party unity, or accept that the split has become too wide to bridge.

Almost pathetically, the 88-year-old Señora Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria of Civil War fame, appealed yesterday to the delegates to find a way through the party's "difficult debate", as she cautiously put it, and avoid even further polarization.

She has never liked Señor Carrillo and is supporting Señor Iglesias who, however, has shown during the past months that he is anything but an inspiring leader.

Truffle scarcity sends prices soaring

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The increasing scarcity of the truffle, known throughout the ancient and modern world for its delicate flavour and alleged aphrodisiac qualities, has caused prices to rocket. The gourmet's "black diamond" is now selling for nearly £70 a pound in France, compared to £45 last year, and prices are expected to rise.

In the Périgord, the best known truffle-producing region in France, the harvest this year

is expected to total 3 tons, three times less than last year, and a tiny fraction of the bumper harvests of the 1910s and 1920s when France was producing 1,500 tons of truffles a year.

The main cause of this year's particularly disappointing yield is thought to have been the dry hot summer. But the subtropical fungus, which is unearthed with the aid of pigs or, increasingly, dogs, is a ca-

pricious crop at the best of times, and has long resisted man's attempts to cultivate it, though man continues to try.

Over the past few years, farmers in the Dordogne and other calcareous regions have been planting young oak trees, among whose roots the truffle loves to grow.

France can no longer meet its own demand and now imports between 50 and 80 tons of truffles a year.



The most provocative headline in The Times this year?

When our first 'Think British' advertisement appeared in The Times, it did more than just make people think.

In fact, the response it provoked was such that there are now 46 companies with their names on our list of supporters.

They are there not out of any patriotic sentimentality, but because the Think British Council is proposing a way to support British industry and reduce unemployment which is not only totally practical and ingeniously simple, but which is based on exhaustive economic research.*

The aim is to persuade every family in Britain to re-channel £3 of their normal weekly expenditure into buying British made products rather than foreign ones.

Not, please note, to spend £3 more, nor to shun imported goods altogether, but simply to think about buying British goods and services whenever they are equal in quality and value to the imported alternative. What's more, people's perceptions of British made products

are changing, as some recent research by Gallup indicates.** Since the introduction of the Think British Campaign, 80% of people believe it's important to buy British, whilst the number of those who would actually do so is up by almost half compared with a year ago.

Given this positive trend in people's attitudes towards British goods, the next step is to take advantage of it.

To make it easier for the home product to be identified, British manufacturers can now mark their products with the 'Think British' symbol.

This symbol indicates that they are genuinely British.

What, then, would be the effect of this mere £3 shift in our buying habits? In a word, enormous.



No less than 350,000 new jobs created during the first 24 months alone and with longer term benefits to follow that would put Britain right back on its feet.

So you see, further decline and larger dole queues are not inevitable. To make sure they don't happen perhaps you'd like to add your company's name to our list.

Think about it. But for everyone's sake please don't take too long. Because we have the solution but we don't have the time.

To find out more about the 'Think British' campaign, the very real impact it's already had with manufacturers and consumers alike and how you can support it, write now to either of our Directors—Margaret Charrington or Simon Preston—at Tower House, Southampton Street, London WC2E 7EQ or telephone 01-379 3307.

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مكتبة من الأصل

After a period Babes in the Wood... The 'Star Wars' of its time... Galleries restoration... John P... 30 November... Tate Galler

THE ARTS

After a period out in the cold, pantomime looks to be back in favour in London: Aladdin, Babes in the Wood, Snow White, Peter Pan... and, opening at the National Theatre tonight, Cinderella. This last is designed by William Dudley, interviewed below by John Higgins; while (right) our critics sample the joys of some of the latest offerings around the town

The 'Star Wars' of its time

Not for the National the television stars taking their annual bite at the stage or the fading divas of the cinema glad for a little work. Instead, according to their designer, William Dudley, they have been directing their attention to the Drury Lane Theatre at the turn of the century, when the panto really was the event of the year.

"If you look at a Wilhelm panto, such as Jack and the Beanstalk, there is everything there from a coloured postcard to an imitation of Turner. Some of the scenes have been overlooked that they are pure cartoon." And that is how it will be at the National, where the Ugly Sisters occupy a pier-end vision of a bedroom, full of empty brown ale bottles.

Dudley agrees that the proscenium arch dictated the shape of every late Victorian set, giving the audience what he describes as "tunnel vision". "They were great at framing and at softening edges, whether of pictures or of ladies' clothes. But I think it has been overlooked that they put every available resource into the panto. In the 1890s it was quite usual to have 500 to 600 people employed in the theatre in one capacity or another. There were legions of poorly paid craftsmen. You took urchins off the street, put them into costumes so that they became elves - or something similar - and gave them a pittance. You can't do that now, thank goodness - although I wouldn't say that the fees at the National were exactly generous. And sometimes, when I go through those Drury Lane prompt books, I wonder just what we can expect them to do. The answer, probably, is nothing.

"In those days the panto was at the very forefront of technical innovation. It wasn't something thrown on at the end of a busy rep season, as it is now. On the contrary, it was the Star Wars of its time, where you used every new invention. We're putting in gas footlights at the Lytton, because that is what a 1980s audience will expect, but a theatre proud of its panto would certainly have had electricity. Otherwise we're looking at the



William Dudley on his set for Cinderella

time before Dan Leno died, and cinema took over the art of spectacle.

Cinderella uses 30 dropcloths, many of which will have been painted in the workshops of the Old Vic, erstwhile home of the National. It is one of the few theatres - Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells are among the others - which still has vertical paint frames where the canvas can be hauled up and down. Most others have gone over to the European method of spreading the raw material on the floor and having the scene painters get down on their hands and knees. Dudley, though, reckons that the use of the vertical frame will help him produce the effects he wants.

All this looks a little far away from Bayreuth, where William Dudley spent the first half of the year designing the controversial Ring staged by Peter Hall. Or is it?

"Actually not. Opera, more than any other form of theatre, has retained the old craft of painted scenery, of a filled and highly decorated stage. I suppose in our time Lila di Nobile took the painted image just as far as it could be taken. She reached her apex in this country, it is thought, in the Stratford *Tweelfth Night* and you can still come across eyes moistening over at the very mention of it. I didn't see that, but I did see *Love for Love* at the Old Vic. Then, inevitably, in the straight theatre the reaction set in: there were no cut gazes and cut cloths any more, just a few props on a bare stage.

"So opera has been very much at the front of my mind while I've been working on *Cinderella*. Indeed, at times *Cinderella* is almost a pastiche of the rococo, so it is rather convenient that I'm also starting designs on a new *Rosenkavalier* for Covent Garden. Much opera and much panto is concerned with a sudden welling of the emotion. And maybe that's why both are so much to favour at the moment.

"In Bayreuth we used to talk about the Ring as the thinking man's panto. And it was a phrase which stuck."

Computer failure

Abacadabra Lyric, Hammersmith

The first video fairy tale to hit the London stage, this show is aimed at the non-theatre-going, computer-wise generation; and by featuring such chart-toppers as Elaine Paige and B. A. Robertson in a strong company including Sylvester McCoy and Phill Daniels (plus some excellent dancers) it is out to spread its net as well as break new ground.

Adapted from a French source, David Wood's book attempts a marriage of magic and technology through the story of three children who meet up with Aladdin, Cinderella, Pinocchio and the Beast and join them on their journey to the castle of Sleeping Beauty. The route lies through an enchanted forest heavily guard-

ed by the witch Carabosse (doubling as a teacher in the opening scene) whose minions lie in wait to manacle intruders into their mistress's video circuits for transmission in the over-popular Carabosse Super-show.

Jenny Tiramanti's forest is a maze of fluorescent silver tubes, with lamps and monitor screens hanging like exotic fruit, and the costumes of video bandits (led by the crackling Miss Paige in black body-stocking and high boots) strike a corresponding note of high-tech fascist glamour in contrast with the humbly traditional garb of the travellers. Abba's repetitiously pulsating music has the effect of nullifying Don Black's lyrics, but atmospherically it is perfectly in key with the rest of Peter James's production.

Two things scupper the show. First, theatre cannot perform a full electronic operation in the

Beauty and the Beast Players

Shame on me for taking all these years to get round to a Victorian delight of the Players' Theatre. I can happily report that, once through that unassuming doorway under the arches at Charing Cross, it is as much fun as I had always been told.

The Christmas fare is a genuine Victorian panto preceded with great élan, performed by a quick selection of music-hall "joys". Miss Josephine Gordon sings "Lead me your fairy wand". Miss Wendy Jones invites Esau to take her on the sea-saw, and a period MC briskly leads a few choruses crying "Raise the roof, and to hell with the London Chatham and Dover Railway" - which then takes traditional revenge by rumbling deafeningly all through the pantomine.

Written by J. R. Planché for Covent Garden in 1841, some years after the libretto for Weber's *Oberon* for which he is best known, this *Beauty* is a "grand comic-romantic-operatic-melodramatic fairy extravaganza" (a category even Polonius never thought of). Cleverly-turned rhymin' couplets, packed with puns, rub

shoulders with numbers set to a sabbath of current operatic favourites.

Beauty is saddled, Cinderella-wise, with two nasty sisters and an impoverished papa called Sir Aldgate Pump living in a Gothic folly in Brixton. Lurking in a lair plentifully supplied with modish gowns and turtle soup, Beast has a splendidly horrid mask, but sings a plaintive bit of *Der Freischütz* and is clearly a perfect gentleman.

Though partial rewriting and rescoring affects the style, Reginald Woolley's production is sharp and neat, knowing just how far to go. The women outaring the men, with Alexandra Sebastian's Beauty and Geraldine Arthur's Fairy Queen soaring up among the ledger-lines and Maureen Brathwaite's pure, brilliant tones heard too briefly as the Beast's page, Julia Sutton and Jenny Wren make a wonderfully vain, rapacious pair of uppies, relishing the prospect of Beauty's cannibalistic demise with a chortling patter duet borrowed from *Don Pasquale*, and Josephine Gordon reappears as a benign but eccentric Morning Zephyr, nagging a reluctant chorus of roses to wake up and start blooming. Riotous and recommended.

Anthony Masters

by Robert Flaherty on the way to persuading them to put up the money for a film unit which, he told them, was just the thing for propaganda. "A tremendous personality", remembered Basil Wright. The EMB Film Unit to 1933 and, after the outbreak of war, the Crown Film Unit.

An interesting witness was a former Special Branch man, Mr Arthur Cain, who was assigned to keep an eye on the filmmakers whose left-leaning politics worried authority. He became fascinated by the business himself, being transformed into a "friendly bridge". His wife confessed. She had been John Grierson's secretary.

Dennis Hackett

Television

Rich reminiscence

What they were going to shoot before they shot it. For *Night After* they had Benjamin Britten for the score and W. H. Auden for the script. Auden, said Mr Watt, had often had to rewrite but had been uncompromising. He now regretted having thrown so much of Auden's work into the wastepaper basket but recalled one line for posterity. Talking of the formal hills which mark the approach of Scotland, Auden had written that they were "heaped like slaughtered horses".

It was a programme of much rich reminiscence from Mr Watt, Basil Wright, Stuart Legg, Edgar Anstey and others who laboured with great invention and success in the John Grierson school. The excellent clips told their own story and one wondered if documentary had really progressed at all. Through it all one perceived the formidable figure of Grierson.

It was he who persuaded a group of dignitaries from the Empire Marketing Board to gather and watch Eisenstein's *Potemkin* and documentaries

with poetry that is peculiarly its own.

The minutest of Job's family with its echoes of Ravel needed more tautness of rhythm, but otherwise the explicit visual images, the radiant Saraband of the Sons of God, the Pavane of the Heavenly Host, the displaced accents and angry clashes of Satán's music, were vividly presented. David Nolan's warmly lyrical solo violin for Elihu's dance was the most notable of several exposed instrumental passages played with keen effect.

John Hill was another soloist of distinction in a warmly romantic account of Rachmaninov's C minor Piano Concerto, picking up from a strangely ponderous opening and some trustily ensemble passages early in the first movement to make a virtue of familiarity in the rest of the work. Expressive phrasing was matched by the orchestra, who brought vigorous if sometimes raucous spirit to Dvorak's *Carnival* overture at the start of the programme.

Noël Goodwin

Galleries Restoration rights

The Clarendon Gallery, Vigo Street, has a fascinating loan show devoted to Cavaceppi (until December 22). And what, you might ask, are Cavaceppi? They are, in fact, a name that a who. Cavaceppi was the leading sculpture restorer of his day, which was the mid-eighteenth century. At that time no stigma at all seems to have attached to elaborate restoration, sometimes amounting to total remodelling, of ancient sculpture; on the contrary, it was expected, and dealers in Italy found it very difficult to sell their discoveries, either at home or abroad, unless they had been returned to a semblance of completeness.



Cavaceppi's transformation of the Diskobolos

This often meant adding a head or a limb, and at any rate the replacement of a nose or some other equally important detail. And, for that, Cavaceppi was your man. He had an enormous workshop, and ended up immensely rich, from virtually giving up original classical sculpture and concentrating on patching genuine antiques. Many of his works in this line found their way to Britain, and the present show offers a fine selection, with an elaborate and scholarly catalogue which explains exactly what Cavaceppi did to which, including such famous pieces as the *Dog of Abdrades* from Duncombe Park and the Lansdowne *Diskobolos*, transformed by Cavaceppi with an ancient but unrelated head and modern additions into Diomedes carrying off the Palladium. A small but important chapter in the history of taste is vividly illustrated.

Knoedler/Kasmin offers a small show of recent work by Gillian Ayres, supplementary to the big show at the Serpentine Gallery (until January 8). The Serpentine show too is mostly of work from the last two years, and both afford us the opportunity of admiring the confidence with which Ayres disposes large amounts of brightly coloured oil-paint on vivid abstract canvases with titles referring them, and us, to perennial literary themes. The earlier paintings which preface the Serpentine show offer a useful quick guide to how she works at this point, by way of thinner, more washy acrylic paintings getting ever farther away from any appreciable representational base.

John Russell Taylor

Cinéma vérité is very popular in the BBC, I understand," said Harry Watt - who, with Basil Wright, directed *Night After* in 1936 and could rightly claim to know a thing or two about documentaries. He was in a train being interviewed by Arena about the feats of yore and observed that cinéma vérité was what they were doing right then and expressed a pejorative opinion of it in a succinct four-letter word.

Arena were making *The GPO Story*, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the famous film unit, and were underlined by Mr Watt's disapproval. The result, in BBC2 last night, was a joy to watch.

Mr Watt recalled that in the Thirties they had known exactly

Hongkong: Eighth Festival of Asian Arts Marriage of East and West, old and new



Sonal Mansingh: "India's Atarah Ben-Tovim"

Dance in Delhi, is something of an Atarah Ben-Tovim of Indian dance and music; her encyclopedic and eclectic knowledge, powerfully projected to word and movement, relies on considerable dramatic and narrative extension, a certain de-centring from the concentrated inner physical and spiritual energies of the pure practice of the *Naya Shastra*. To balance and reinvent programming of primarily popular appeal, the festival's new coordinator, Choi Suk-kuen, is deliberately seeking out those groups who attempt to assimilate experimental, avant-garde, often clearly western influences into their own traditions. Although his production of *East Wind*, a

90-minute music-and-dance drama, as yet makes some of its points about alienation and cultural suffocation rather crudely, the work of the Indonesian director and ethnomusicologist Sardonio Kusumo was particularly memorable.

Sardonio's concern with the dying musical traditions of the Land Dayaks has led him to work with his students in the jungle villages of East Borneo, and Dayaks has led him to himself to Jakarta, and now to Hongkong, to take part in his productions. The result is a gradual revitalization of the music and a lively integration of their distinctive slow, twirling, squatting dance movements and gentle flute and zither music with the electro-acoustic and cinematic invention of the company's own composer and scenographer.

Sardonio's synthetic approach, with its exploitation, disruption and modification of traditional forms and rituals, has made him a somewhat controversial figure. No less so is Ramon Obusan from the Philippines, who, like Sardonio, uses his folkloric troupe as a showcase for his research as a musicologist and anthropologist at the University of Manila.

If the Festival of Asian Arts is turning its face increasingly far forward in its programming of visiting groups, then its confidence for the more immediate future with neighbouring dramatists and musicians in the People's Republic of China seems no less optimistic. As more and more performing arts companies are being established in the cities of mainland China, so in Hongkong pianists like Yin Chengzong and orchestras and opera groups from Beijing and Shanghai are warmly received. The festival's coup this year was bringing the Shanghai

Kunju Opera Troupe. *Kunju* is the oldest, most sophisticated form of classical opera in China, from which both Peking and Cantonese opera have evolved. It had its beginnings as a refined, elite form in the sixteenth century and, thanks to the pioneering and continuing work of the troupe's director, the 80-year-old Yu Zhenfei, is now rising from centuries of neglect, and more lately persecution at the hands of Jiang Qing to a new popularity.

Hilary Finch

Advertisement for the musical 'Poppo' at Adelphi Theatre. The ad features a stylized illustration of a man in a top hat and a woman in a dress. Text includes: 'Royal Shakespeare Company's MUSICAL OF THE YEAR Poppo ENTHRALLING UNMISSABLE TREAT', 'Brilliantly Clever', 'Magnificent Spectacle', 'ADELPHI THEATRE', 'BOX OFFICE 01-435 7017', 'CREDIT CARDS 01-435 8222 01-435 7250'.



Elaine Paige: high-tech crackle

style of Disney's *Tron*. No hard-core computer audience is going to be fobbed off with an array of panto props no matter how they may wink and beep. Secondly, by leading the story back to the primacy of traditional fairy tales

and magic, *Abacadabra* is doing a hard-selling job for the pre-electronic age, which is unlikely to win any converts from the space invasion tables.

Irving Wardle

Concerts Vienna PO/Mehta Barbican

Schoenberg and his two great pupils had no cause to be grateful to the Vienna of their day for the frequency, quality or reception of performances they received, but amends are now being well and truly made. Berg's *Lulu* has reached the Vienna State Opera, and the Vienna Philharmonic have come to London with two programmes strongly featuring Schoenberg and Webern.

Of course, out and out Schoenbergians will argue that *Pelleas und Melisande* is a soft option, being a romantic symphonic poem in the good old Straussian mould, but there can be no charge of pussyfooting at the choices from Webern for the first concert of the pair, on Tuesday, when we heard three works that gave a neat summary of his career to end the Olivetti Webern Cycle.

We began where Webern himself decided he began, with his Op 1, the *Passacaglia* that storms from tentative, unwilling threads of sound into a fury of passion. Then came the Six Pieces Op 6, a black atonal funeral march wreathed in fragmentary slow movements, and finally the Symphony, the first breath of the clearly still mountain air that nearly stills Webern's later music was to inhabit.

Instead of suggesting a pattern of growth, however, the juxtaposition presented a pain-drome as light and true as any Webern composed in his music. Parly this was a matter of performance. However minuscule the Symphony's gestures, they are at least recognizable as gestures to musicians trained and experienced in the classical-romantic tradition that more directly feeds the *Passacaglia*: both works, accordingly, were

LPO/Handley Festival Hall

Vaughan Williams called *Job* "a masque for dancing" to describe it from the sophistry of ballet, and to restore a religious purpose to dance in the theatre. Whether there or in concert form, his identity of toner vision with the William Blake engravings which were his inspiration brought absolute integrity of character to the music, and Vernon Handley was concerned for us to accept this in his eloquent performance with the London Philharmonic Orchestra on Tuesday.

Disposing his strings with the first and second violins on either side (as the score's dedicatee, Sir Adrian Boult, always preferred), Mr Handley directed a shared concern for the music's diseases of utterance, for the existence of Good and Evil as contending forces, a difference between diatonic concord and angry discord. The harmonic basis for *Job* has a way of transcending simplicity

Noël Goodwin

played with more musical understanding and more technical finesse, then were the Six Pieces, where the old rhetoric has gone haywire.

At the same time, this was a very different view of the Symphony from that offered by the Ensemble InterContemporain on Sunday. Where Boulez still sees Webern as the progenitor of the 1950s, serving him with a quick flick of the wrist that wrote *Le Marteau sans maître*, Zubin Mehta finds something more languid and decadent, even erotic, in the lie of the rhythm.

Given the so beautiful sheen of the Vienna strings, for whom this work could have been written, the Symphony was returned to its own period of precious art deco objects in frosted glass. It also had a warmth and limpidity that referred right back to the opening stages of the *Passacaglia*.

To some tiny degree the Six Pieces belonged also in that world, since Mr Mehta was using the reduced, clarified scoring from the year of the Symphony. But though I am sure other Webern conductors, notably Abbado and Boulez, are right to prefer the original version (the case is similar to that of Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, no attempt at taming, can obscure the violent rupture with modernity that even its creator could only begin to control 20 years later.

Mr Mehta concentrated on the work's emphatic insistence, as he was to do later in Schubert's "Great" C major Symphony, and most of the solo contributions were blank, but there is a sense in which a puzzled performance is an appropriate response to an experience that even its creator could only begin to control 20 years later.

Paul Griffiths

Advertisement for three film screenings at Academy One, Two, and Three. Academy One: 'ISABELLE HUPPERT in DIANE KURYS' AT FIRST SIGHT', 'An original: about love, but also made with love... It gets you under the skin', 'The performances are superb'. Academy Two: 'Best Actor Award - Cannes 1983 GIAN-MARIA VOLONTE in CLAUDE GORETTA'S gripping THE DEATH OF MARIO RICCI', 'No shortage of delights... Fine atmospheric, immaculately fluid camerawork and a towering performance from Volonte'. Academy Three: 'SIMONE SIGNORET - PHILIPPE NOIRET L'ETOILE DU NORD', 'You could barely ask for a greater pleasure in the cinema'. All screenings at Oxford Street 437 2981.

Sweet talk in Grosvenor Square

The Times Profile US Ambassador Charles Price

Charles H. Price II Born April 1 1931, Kansas City, Missouri Educated: Wentworth Military Academy
1953 Graduated University of Missouri
1953-55 Military service, US Air Force Various Chairman and President, American Bancorporation; Chairman, American Bank and Trust Company of Kansas City; President and Director, Linwood Securities; Chairman and Director, American Mortgage Company; Director, American Inc.; Director, Swanson Broadcasting; Director, Earle M. Jorgensen; Member, World Business Council and the International Institute for Strategic Studies
1982 Married (second) Carol Ann Swanson
They have five children: Picketta, Charles Blak, Carolina, Melissa and Charles III
1981 Appointed Ambassador to Brussels
1983 Appointed Ambassador to London

Charles Price, President Reagan's choice as new ambassador to Britain - who presents his credentials to the Queen on Tuesday - arrived in London only a few weeks before millions of British television viewers saw his home town of Kansas City, Missouri, annihilated in a nuclear blast during the film, *The Day After*.

Whereas in the past the number two in the US Embassy had been the one with the main dealings with the Belgian foreign ministry, suddenly they found him demanding meeting after meeting to discuss complex points.

The film was of course fictional, but the debate it engendered in the US, and to which it added in the UK, will have prepared Price for the issue likely to dominate the first months of his term in Grosvenor Square: the deployment of nuclear-tipped cruise missiles in Britain.

Price will take over America's premier ambassadorial post at a time when relations between the US and Britain are undergoing a period of uncharacteristic strain.

As US ambassador to Belgium for the past 2½ years, he has become familiar with European views of the great missile debate, having seen at first hand the passions aroused by deployment of the new medium-range missiles.

Price is also taking over in the middle of a presidential term, itself unusual. He is replacing Mr John Louis, one of the least distinguished of recent US ambassadors to London.

He had previously been unfamiliar with the subject. In his previous life as candy king and Kansas City banker he had not had much to do with missiles. But in Brussels he showed himself a quick learner, not just about nuclear policy but also about the finer points of diplomacy, including how to get along with techy Europeans.

Belgians say unofficially that they have unhappy memories of politically appointed US ambassadors down the years, recalling with particular anger a former ambassador who was a keen drinker and needed a special watch to prevent his being embarrassingly arrested. They looked forward to the arrival of Price, the Candy Kid, with apprehension. To their amazement he was a glutton for work who desperately wanted to prove himself as a diplomat.



Charles Price: quick learner in the art of diplomacy. Photograph by Harry Kerr

Though a pleasant man and a gracious host, his political impact in Britain was limited. His failure to return to London on a golfing holiday in Florida until 10 days after the Falklands War started earned him the epithet "The Invisible Man".

Just how out of touch he had become was demonstrated during a dinner party given by a member of the royal family, attended by Mrs Thatcher and himself, on the eve of the Grenada invasion. Mrs Thatcher was called away and returned to Downing Street to receive a call from President Reagan. Louis remained at the table and did not find out until hours later what was happening.

diplomatic. He is a person who throws himself into his job."

Though he had never been to Belgium before, spoke no French and had never been a diplomat, he served said Senator Danforth, "with distinction and skill" in Brussels.

It was noted that he was running his embassy rather than leaving that to the professional diplomats. Leo Tindemans, the foreign minister, was only too happy to talk to him (Tindemans is only too happy to talk to anyone who will listen, of course) but he found that it was useful to have the ear of someone who had the ear of the White House.

Price is now 52, well over 6ft tall and is a classic product of Middle America. He inherited a family confectionery business in Kansas City, ran it well, branched into banking and made a lot of money. Though he is not rich on the scale of, say, Walter Annenberg - a close friend and a former ambassador to London - he had enough of it to enable him to become a leading contributor to the President's election campaign, and that is how the top ambassadorships are obtained in the US.

He was also fortunate in marrying a rich, attractive and intelligent wife. Carol Price is the daughter of a frozen-food manufacturer from Omaha, Nebraska (where she was the "Aksarben Queen" for two years, "Aksarben" being Nebraska spelt backwards). In Brussels, she had three rooms in the residence to house her wardrobe of gowns. (The removers also packed 275 of Price's suits.) A graduate from Stamford University, Mrs Price became a friend of Annenberg before he went to London as the Nixon Administration's ambassador.

Through the Annenbergs, the Prices met the Reagans at the Annenbergs' estate in Palm Springs, California. For many years the families spent New Year's Eve together and when Reagan decided to run for president, Price was one of his leading fund-raisers in Kansas City.

Politically, Price has similar views to Reagan and will have no difficulty with the President's foreign and domestic policies when he is in London. Socially, he is described as very personable - outgoing and cultivated. He is also said to be the soul of discretion who is always careful not to put a foot wrong.

Nicholas Ashford

moreover...
Miles Kingston

Versed in paste-up poetry

I never really believed that story about the 12 chimpanzees who, if they were taught to type, would sooner or later come up with a Shakespeare play. For one thing, the laws of chance would make them produce something shorter first, and Scott's Law would ensure it was a Pam Ayres poem. For another, the 12 chimps would go their own way long before then as writers always do - one to take to drink, another to become a *Sunday Times* book reviewer, two to produce a musical based on King Kong and so on.

In any case, there is a much better example of random literature to hand. Twenty years ago the French novelist Raymond Queneau produced a small book called *Cent Mille Milliards de Poèmes*, containing ten 14-line sonnets. Each page was cut deeply between each line so that different lines from different poems could be combined to make a new poem - the first line of the first poem, the second of the third, for instance, and so on. (A completely random poem could be made by sliding a knitting needle up through the book, wiggling it about a bit.) As each sonnet had exactly the same rhyme scheme, each new sonnet was a proper sonnet and as far as Queneau could ensure it, even obeyed grammatical rules.

He calculated that the total number of sonnets available to the dedicated knitting needle wielder was ten to the power of 14, or one hundred million million, and that reading them non-stop would take 190,258,751 years. I calculated when I first came across the book that it would not be a bestseller and that no one would ever translate it into English.

I was only right about the first, because *One Hundred Million Poems* has just been published by the translator John Crombie in Paris, and a stupendous achievement it is too, gloriously, idiotically successful.

At six the sahib dons fresh laundered hose.
(Of muggers all wise rustics are afraid)
The "Oh" he cries - and adds two faint
"Oh Not's"
While vultures swooping low give fiftal shade.

That's the first four lines of a new poem I have just created at random. Quite atmospheric, if not world-class, but what I like best about it is that it is a totally new poem.

Let's try again.
The gaucho dreams of bareback rodeos
And downs his first gin-fizz (or
lemonade)
He wipes the guano off his black boot
toes
While vultures swooping low give fiftal shade.

It's those vultures again, but as it's a different context they seem like different vultures, and we're off a new direction. Quite honestly, I'd much rather be playing with the book than writing about it, especially as John Crombie has decided to make it a job to handle - it's hand-set, printed on thick cream paper and bound with an intricate white ribbon. And limited to 500 copies.

From the same hands comes another Queneau book, *Un Conte à Votre Façon* or *Yours for the Telling*, a tiny children's tale with multi-choice development. Page one reads: "Would you like to read the tale of the three sprightly peas? If so, turn to page four; if not, turn to page two." Turn to page two and you find: "Would you prefer the tale of the three tall, lanky beanpoles? If so turn to page 16; if not, turn to page three." Of course, one goes through reading every variation, and very funny most of them are. This book is lavishly decorated by Sheila Bourne and is just as much pleasure to handle as *One Hundred Million Poems*.

Anyone who wants further information about these two books (but especially the poems) should write without delay to John Crombie at Kieckhefer, 13 rue de la Grande Chaumière, 75006 Paris. Meanwhile, if you care to cut up this piece into different lines, then shuffle it into a different order, you could enter it for the Booker Prize next year.

Cocaine is the new, hugely profitable, merchandise of the racketeers. Its corrupt influence is now undermining the political stability of those countries that produce it

The deadly road to Narcolandia

Bogotá President Fernando Betancur Terry regards it as the biggest single threat to the security of his country and its neighbours. A Bolivian intellectual warns of a dormant empire striking back, of vengeful gods, of a coming apocalypse. The United States ambassador in Colombia draws an analogy between Latin America today and Germany in the 1930s. Cuban President Fidel Castro says it is a "blatant knowingly-made lie" that he has anything to do with it.

The spark triggering these diverse observations? The South American cocaine racket, or "Narcolandia" as it has been punningly dubbed in a region which delights in word play. The name is apt enough since it not only defines the merchandise but also a vast territory extending north to south down the continent's Pacific limb.

The racket is not new but suddenly it is arousing very real alarm due to its pervasive growth, its corruptive influence, its links with subversive groups on the left and political movements on the right, and a general perception that it has grown too big, too powerful and too dangerous in a region crippled by foreign debt and suffering the worst depression in half a century.

Each year it is estimated that at least 20 tons of cocaine are

smuggled into the United States via the "Colombian connexion" network. That represents 80 per cent of the cocaine consumed annually in the US. Nobody has ever put a figure on its value, except that it is several times more than the 1.5 billion US dollars that Colombia earns from coffee, officially its top export.

Now that the bottom has started to fall out of the marijuana racket due to the spectacular growth of pot cultivation in North America, the "Mafiosi" are concentrating almost exclusively on cocaine. Coke has traditionally been an up-market drug but the racketeers plan to change that through mass production, converting cocaine into a popular classless drug similar to marijuana in the 1970s.

Cocaine is refined in laboratories in Colombia from paste flown in from the highland regions where the coca plant has always grown. Similar laboratories exist on a much smaller scale in the northern Argentine province of Salta which borders Bolivia and is strategically placed for packaging the stuff off to

Buenos Aires, or to Chile's more adjacent Pacific ports, for export.

Although the US remains the principal market, a current cocaine glut is turning Europe, including Britain, into an increasingly important second market. Indeed, a Colombian journalist recently reported from London that Heathrow has now become as unpleasant for Colombian passport holders as Miami or New York because of the endless questioning by suspicious Customs officers.

It is no coincidence that "Narcolandia" closely mirrors the same Andean domain of the pre-Columbian Inca Empire. The cultivation of the coca plant was part of Inca culture; they chewed its leaves as an antidote against the cold of high altitudes. Following the Spanish conquest attempts were made to forbid its cultivation after a priest charged that it was an "ally of Satan" which made the Indians resist Christian teaching.

Five hundred years later, the eccentric Bolivian intellectual Amado Canelas argues that "cocaine is an instrument of historical vengeance" through which traditional Andean society is taking belated revenge, not only against the *Conquistadores* who violated the innocence of a Garden of Eden continent, but also against more recent North American influences.

Betancur Terry is not alone among South American intellectuals in claiming that the grandeur of the Inca Empire, centred in Peru, rivalled that of the Romans. Today he warns of the dangers of the New Empire: "Our democracies are doubly threatened by subversion and the narcotics traffic. It is clear that in countries like Colombia and Peru narcotics are the principal source of the financing of subversion."

Specifically he charges that the Colombian April 19 Movement and the Sendero Luminoso terrorists in Peru are receiving arms and "hard dollars" from the racketeers. Furthermore, he claims there exists "close contact" between the Italian Mafia and South American racketeers. The aim of these alliances is, in the Peruvian president's view, to fuel subversion in a bid to trigger military takeovers, ousting good democrats like himself and Colombian President Belisario Betancur Cuartas who are trying to curb the racket.

Alarm over the drug trade is greatest in Colombia and not just because of its ties with subversion. Colombia has suddenly discovered that for the first time it has a serious drug problem among young people.

Colombian "Mafiosi" have long been the empire builders of "Narcolandia". As enterprising as ever, they are trying to shed their dependency on paste from Peru and Bolivia and are now cultivating the coca plant on a massive scale in Colombia. At the same time they clearly intend not only to keep North American addicts supplied but also create a

South American market for "buzuko", a cheap and extremely dangerous form of cocaine base variously mixed with marijuana and tobacco. They have pinpointed teenagers with the aim of establishing a permanent long-term domestic market. The smoking of "buzuko" is now catching on fast in other countries, most notably Peru.

Shocked by the destructive effect of "buzuko" on increasing numbers of young people, Colombia's courageous Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla has launched a wide-ranging investigation which has resulted in a wave of arrests, confiscation of planes suspected of smuggling and the uprooting of large acreages of marijuana and coca crops. Journalists, judges and even priests who have investigated the racket in the past have been murdered and many wonder how long Lara Bonilla can avoid a bullet.

In the United States Embassy in Bogotá Ambassador Lewis Tambs looks on approvingly. The urbane Mr Tambs is not a career diplomat but an academic specialising in Latin American affairs.

His nomination as ambassador was fiercely opposed by US liberals and many Colombians, because of his well-known opposition to the Panama Canal treaties, his general hard-line views, and disparaging remarks from his past, like the time he dismissed many Latin American

countries as no more than "a flag, a football team and a seat at the United Nations".

For six months since his arrival in the Colombian capital, he has never missed an opportunity to warn in grammatically correct if heavily-accented Spanish of the perils posed by the Soviet Union and its Cuban proxies. Now suddenly in something resembling a major revelation, he has been alerted to "Narcolandia".

Noting the links between drug money and certain fascist-style movements in Colombia and elsewhere in the region, he has told the Bogotá daily *El Tiempo* that "Latin America today reminds me of Germany in the 1930s when the criminals - that's to say, the Nazis - came to power" he hastily and diplomatically adds that at least in Colombia "the people will never let it happen". *El Tiempo* is a respected liberal newspaper and Tambs seems to have used the interview to try to soften his image.

Ironically, the "Mafiosi" are every bit as anti-communist and conservative as Mr Tambs. They also happen to be decidedly anti-imperialistic. Says one: "The Gringos have robbed us of our national resources, one after another, gold, silver, bronze, tin, and tomorrow, no doubt, our gas. Now they want to give us a bad conscience about coca.... but

why should we feel guilty about the drug addiction and degeneration of the North Americans?"

So speaks Roberto Suarez Gomez, otherwise known as Bolivia's "King of Cocaine" and affectionately as "Papito," or reverently as "Su Santidad," in the Bolivian region of Beni, his personal fiefdom. Protected by his own private army, he survives and prospers despite the exit last year of his military friends, whom he helped enrich while in power, and despite the start of another of Bolivia's periodic flirtations with democracy.

In La Paz the civilian government does not fear revolutionary guerrillas but rather the perpetual threat of military takeover. There are a number of officers exiled in Buenos Aires who are nostalgic for a recent past when they ruled the "coke republic," and there are reports that "Papito" is now trading coca for arms across the Argentine frontier, to bring them back.

Mr Tambs is said to be very good at briefing his Washington friends on the Soviet-Cuban threat, but how could he articulate the threat of "Narcolandia" as outlined by Amado Canelas?

If the "Apocalypse of cocaine" is let loose, he says, the Inca Gods will then prove that they have "defeated Jesus Christ because the soul of the Indians, today as yesterday, belongs to them."

Geoffrey Matthews



Masked men pour coca paste into bags ready for refining, protected by armed guards

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- DOWN**
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SOLUTION TO No 223
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مكتبة من الأصل

Recent books
The Big
Life in Russia
By Michael Binyon
Among the Russians
By Colin Thubron
...chang
A Highlan
Calm Tod
By Norman Malcolm
Maldonald
Come Back
By Jonathan Smith
The novel describes
the life of a writer in a
small village in a
remote part of the
Scottish Highlands.
The writer is a
man who has spent
most of his life in
London and is now
returning to his
hometown. The novel
explores the writer's
struggle to find his
place in a community
that is so different
from the one he has
left behind. The
writing is beautiful
and the story is
fascinating.

BOOKS

Recent books about Russian life and politics

The Big Brother state . . .

Life in Russia By Michael Binyon (Hornish Hamilton, £9.95)

Among the Russians By Colin Thubron (Heinemann, £8.95)

Michael Binyon spent four and a half years in the Soviet Union reporting for The Times. Life in Russia is a distillation of his experiences during that time, providing a valuable guide to an extraordinary society, alien in almost all its ways from our own.

On the whole the impression is utterly depressing. Everything is characterized by boundless inefficiency, disorder, corruption, vice and repression. Everywhere there are shortages, mechanical breakdowns, administrative blunders of colossal proportions and profligate wastage. There is nothing which is not controlled, or rather obstructed, by a state administration which would be incapable of solving the problems of this vast land were it not for the teams of Solons. As it is the rulers come up only with Five-Year Plans which have the effect of crippling the economy infinitely more effectively than any United States boycott could dream of emulating.

Michael Binyon provides many amusing instances of this bureaucratic confusion, such as the provincial newspaper whose disappearance from circulation passed unnoticed for a month, and the unbuilt factory which production rate featured so satisfactorily in government statistics for a year or more.

But overall the reality lacks a humorous aspect. It is particularly harsh on women, who make up 51 per cent of the labour force, and 92 per cent of whom either work or study. In addition the majority of housewives are faced with a daily four hours of housekeeping, much of it taken up by the amazing triple-queue system required when shopping. Living-quarters are drab and cramped, drunkenness among men remains a ubiquitous popular means of secession from socialism, and the Russian birth and life expectancy rates are declining drastically. Not surprisingly divorce and abortion stalk through almost every other marriage, and youth is widely alienated into the much-condemned but totally resistant jeans culture. The entire countryside has been despoiled as if ravaged for years by a hostile army.

Fortunately there is another Russia which has somehow survived the onslaught against everything which formerly sustained and exalted her people: religion, literature, the family, self-expression, and self-advancement. Mr Binyon provides many examples of the innate kindness, warmth and generosity which characterize so many Russians amid all their tribulations, and which arise at least in part as a reaction against the prevailing darkness of oppression. He also chronicles traits which appear eccentric to the outsider, such as the Russian love when opportunity offers of doing absolutely nothing at all.

Life in Russia is readable and informative, and Mr Binyon is a skilled gatherer of out-of-the-way anecdotes and details which bring his wide-ranging survey to vivid life. He is less happy on the historical background, which occasionally

leads him into seriously misleading error. Thus he writes in emotional vein of the Soviet "war memorial" at Khatyn, being strangely unaware that this hideously vulgar edifice was erected in 1969 as a propaganda distraction from Katyn of infamous memory. He also believes that "the principle of scaling off the countryside from prying eyes is firmly rooted in pre-revolutionary practice". It is not, as a glance at an old Murray or Reddick would have confirmed.

There is no danger of finding howlers of this sort in Colin Thubron's superb account of his solitary journey in an old Morris Marina across much of European Russia. His understanding of Russian history and civilization is profound, as is his perception of Soviet realities. His writing has an enchanted lyrical quality which never falters. It is hard to think of a book more warmly recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in Russia and her people, or who simply wishes to read some of the very best English prose. A magnificent achievement.

Everywhere he went he struck up fascinating acquaintances, and clearly possesses a deep talent for eliciting confidences and eliciting those views and experiences which can illuminate a whole life in a few paragraphs. He neither obtrudes himself nor remains elusively detached; indeed, it is his own personality, warm, responsive, generous and deeply civilized, which acts as a perfect foil to the bizarre and melancholy land of his exploration. It is hard to think of a book more warmly recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in Russia and her people, or who simply wishes to read some of the very best English prose. A magnificent achievement.

Nikolai Tolstoy

. . . changes in Soviet policy

After Brezhnev

Sources of Soviet Conduct in the 1980s Edited by Robert F. Byrnes (Francis Pinter, £16.50, paperback, £6.95)

Predicting who will follow President Andropov is less important than determining what changes are likely in Soviet policy. This task was expertly tackled by some three dozen eminent scholars brought together by the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies to produce a comprehensive volume that presents a sound analysis of Soviet decision making. Seven working groups examined political, economic, social and cultural trends; military forces; Eastern Europe and foreign policy.

foreseeable future the USSR will neither collapse, nor become a democracy; it will remain a destabilizing element in international affairs. Professor Seweryn Bialer is convincing in explaining why he does not expect any fundamental reform of the present system which combines "Stalinist totalitarianism and traditional authoritarianism". The regime now applies less drastic means of coercion than in Stalin's time, but it certainly cannot dispense with authoritarian methods without unacceptable loss of power.

Professor Bialer warns the US Administration not to push the Soviet leaders at a time of reform, since what they fear more than anything else is to be considered weak and irresolute, and they may therefore tend to overcompensate when challenged. Although declining internally the USSR is capable of "tremendous mischief in the international arena" and will pursue an expansionist foreign policy if not contained by a strengthened Western alliance capable of pursuing a patient and consistent long-range policy.

Professor Robert Campbell expects a considerable fall in Soviet oil output by 1990, leading to a reduction in energy exports and contributing to the general slow-down in economic growth. Bad management, inefficient agriculture and low labour productivity are among the other problems which threaten the USSR will probably "muddle through", with the

economy performing well enough to satisfy military demands, thus ensuring that the political leadership will remain unthreatened by the generals.

Living standards are no longer showing a steady improvement: the USSR faces increasing mortality rates, ethnic tensions, declining social standards, cultural isolation, and - not surprisingly - "growing pessimism". Soviet policy in Eastern Europe has become more sophisticated, but the authors believe on sound evidence that the Kremlin will continue to maintain its tight grip. Professor Adam Ullram rounds off this thorough coverage of Soviet affairs with a perceptive essay on foreign policy.

There are, of course, many details of presentation and interpretation with which one might quibble. The Soviet empire was not "legitimized internationally" in the Helsinki Final Act, which provided for the possible changing of frontiers by peaceful means. It is wrong to say that apart from the general secretary none of the Central Committee secretaries is responsible for foreign policy. What about Boris Ponomarev, head of the international department for almost 30 years? However, there are surprisingly few slips considering the speed with which this timely work of high scholarship and stimulating arguments was produced.

Iain Elliot

Fiction A Highlander on the make

Calum Tod By Norman Malcolm Macdonald (Canongate, £7.50, paperback, £2.95)

Come Back By Jonathan Smith (Michael Joseph, £8.95)

The Scotswoman who is meant to have read a dictionary under the impression that it was a novel, and afterwards to have commented, "Verra interesting, but a wee bit disconnected", might have made a similar remark about Calum Tod. Calum Tod is interesting, but pushes disunity to unusual lengths. It contains not merely a failed novel within a novel which does not fully succeed, but also a very good book review which explains why the novel fails.

nald wanted to write it, not because he would solicit the favours of a mass readership. Tod is brought up on the island of Lewis. The islanders' harsh way of life is drawn with skillful roughness, folk tales without whimsy. After childhood ages, Tod goes to sea, and then some literary references have warned that this may happen - he starts to write a novel, a stream of consciousness, using the girl with whom he lives as his raw material. But we learn later that Tod "was quite unable to carry on with it after he moved out to Notting Hill". He makes a last, unsuccessful attempt, involving the use of a pair of card indexes, and concludes he has accomplished nothing. But he has accomplished a fine portrait of a Highlander trying to prove himself outside his native land, as a failure something of a tour de force.

Come Back is about an Englishman whose first love is for Eva, a girl of Czech descent. His gaucheness, and the charming pretentiousness of his budding mind, are well described. There is mention, usual nowadays when two young thinkers fall into romantic conversation, of the immortal Albert Camus. Eva and the Englishman visit Prague, investigating the episode during the Second World War when President Benes set in train from London the assassination of the Leader of the Resistance and Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich. Heydrich's father was a distinguished composer; Heydrich

himself a good musician and a ruthless butcher. That is an unpleasant fact to which Mr Smith draws attention, the willingness of members of the cultivated middle classes to join or collaborate with abominable regimes, the Nazis during the war, the Soviets today. With even greater clarity, though a light touch and no moralizing, Mr Smith shows the difficulties faced by those who want to resist a brutal occupation. Benes, of whom an excellent portrait is given, in 1938 fears that to resist the Germans by force would mean national suicide and a bomb-bombardment of Prague. In 1942, desperately anxious to demonstrate that the Czechs are determined to resist, and so worthy of help from the West, as the French or the Poles, Benes instigates the attack on Heydrich. It leads to the razing of villages and the murder of thousands of Czech civilians in retaliation. Today, for an activity so violent as writing plays, the reward may be torture and imprisonment. Czechoslovakia is a far off country of which we know next to nothing. Mr Smith has reminded us of the Czech state, and the dilemma of unenslaved minds under tyranny, in the best possible way: he has written a readable and entertaining novel about it.

Andrew Gimson

The London Encyclopaedia, referred to in our Christmas Books Supplement does have an entry for Sir John Sear's Museum, under Sir John rather than Sear.



Warsaw, 1937. This Jewish girl does not have a bicycle licence

Pictures for the record

A Vanished World by Roman Vishniac (Allen Lane, £30)

If McCullin is this century's great photographer of war, then Vishniac has done more than any other to document war's precursor: persecution and terror. Using a hidden camera he travelled across Eastern Europe between 1934 and 1939 in hazardous conditions (he was often taken for a spy) in order to photograph Jewish communities at work and play. Of his 16,000 negatives only 2,000 remain, and a selection are published here for the first time. In the certain knowledge that many of his subjects were to perish he embarked on a self-appointed mission: "I felt that the world was about to be cast into the shadow of Nazism, and that the outcome would be the annihilation of a people who had no spokesman to record their plight." The results of his extraordinary journeys across Germany and Poland tend to render contemporary attempts at "committed" photography insipid, for he was not so foolish as to believe that photography could change anything. He was a Jew among Jews, a sileent observer from the inside and the custodian, as he saw it, of the world's conscience. The pictured betray early training in

microscopic photography (a field in which he pre-empted) as a matter of style. The apparently insignificant gesture of a man on his way home in Warsaw (1937), clutching all his possessions in a paper bag. His hand is tucked into his jacket across his stomach: is he ill? Is he hungry? Vishniac's best photographs succeed in this allusive manner, a technique redolent of Cartier-Bresson. In the tradition of modern reportage photography he covers all spheres of Jewish life, from religious instruction to beggar-making. But it is his photographs of children that Vishniac's genius is most evident, and where he manages most brilliantly to avoid the distracting gloss of sentimentality which such subjects easily provoke. A little Jewish girl is berated in the street by a policeman in Warsaw. Onlookers stare from a safe distance. The child does not look at the man. Her mind is elsewhere. She does not have a licence for her bicycle. Just how Vishniac's pictures convey a sense of the diaspora to come must remain a mystery. More than forty years after the event this collection constitutes a memento mori in which aesthetic pleasure must perforce take a back seat. "When he cried," said W. H. Auden in *Epitaph for a Tyrant*, "the little children died in the street."

Rory Coonan

Welsh boy makes good

In My Time

An Autobiography by Lord Elwyn-Jones (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.50)

Much the most interesting part of this book is the account of the Nuremberg Trial. Lord Elwyn-Jones, a newly elected Labour M.P., was briefed in August to appear, among others, as Counsel for the Prosecution. We cannot be too often reminded of the enormous scale and horror of the crimes against the helpless committed by the Nazi regime, which no exigencies of the preparations for, or the conduct of, war could possibly excuse.

Nowadays it is suggested by some that the numbers who suffered have been exaggerated and that many German officials, including those highly placed, were unaware of what was going on. Elwyn-Jones and his fellow Counsel had access to voluminous, unredacted official records. "Our estimate at Nuremberg was that no less than 12 million men, women and children of many races were killed in cold blood."

That takes no account of documents lost or destroyed, or of the multitudes still in the concentration camps when the Germans were defeated. The defendants were convicted by their own statistics. Forensic skills were scarcely needed by the prosecutors.

Lord Elwyn-Jones was tempted to leave the Bar and to become a journalist before the war. "I felt that journalism was not my true vocation." How wise he was. Apart from Nuremberg and the case of the Bodoa Islanders, monstrously despoiled by phosphate extractors with the aid of the British government, his book is mainly a flat and detailed recital of events which stays outside the



Lord Chancellor, 1974

facade without attempting to show what is behind it. The author's father was for thirty years a rollerman at a South Wales steelworks, at times unemployed. His mother's parents originally came from a small farm. There were seven children of whom only four survived past eleven months. Mr and Mrs Jones brought up the other three boys and a girl in a terraced house in Llanelli so effectively that all of them went to a university, the boys fetching up at Cambridge. It would be fascinating to know what life was like in a remarkable family in which the parents struggled so hard, to the

Woodrow Wyatt

Call the land as witness

Village Farmstead by Christopher Taylor (George Philip, £10.95)

This is the most startling work of history I have ever read. So many accepted scenarios are set aside that the general reader begins very slowly to touch the articles of furniture around him in the room. Its theme is the history of rural settlement in England, but at certain points, in prehistory and the onset of the Dark Ages, it becomes a history of England. The author, Christopher Taylor, makes use of the most recent archaeological research but, and most startling, of the most

recent aerial photography. He calls as witness the land itself. What do most of us accept? Probably a gradual settlement of the landscape, the founding of villages, the clearing of the woodland, a process beginning in Saxon times and accelerating in the Middle Ages. Wrong. The growth of pollen and soil analysis suggests that the attack in the woodland began around 5,500 BC. And now, wait for it: BY ABOUT 1000 BC THERE WAS PROBABLY LESS WOODLAND IN ENGLAND THAN THERE IS NOW. Which brings us to the greatest shattering of all, that of the Saxon invasion on which 1500 years of Welsh myth were based. Taylor sees this out in terms of the last great battles in

Byron Rogers

Taking the waters

The Spencers on Spas By Raine Spencer

Photographs by John Spencer (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95)

English Spas are very fascinating cities, the survivors of the rage for mineral waters and hot salts that swept like a hurricane through eighteenth century Europe. Of course their origins were far older; Bath became famous in Roman days; others took root in the middle ages but they achieved little more than a local fame. In the eighteenth century the sick and the barren haunted them in the fear of death and the hope for life.

To the eighteenth century there were over three hundred wells and baths in various stages of growth - most of them had a short, ephemeral existence but some grew and flourished - Buxton, Leamington, Cheltenham, Tuobridge Wells. In the towns we still know as the "English Spas". Only very few of the minor spas have survived in contrast with France where several have become the highly sophisticated playgrounds of the seriously rich. If only John Aspinall and Robert Carrier had taken over Mallock Bath, or rebuilt Mistley or rescued Ashby-de-la-Zouche!

Some have survived partly by being like Harrogate, retirement centres for our ageing middle-class; others have been helped - like Leamington with its vast and beautiful parks - by being close to the teeming hordes of Birmingham and Coventry. And some by luck - Woodhall Spa, built because John Pitt found water instead of coal, attached a fine golf course to itself just before the game boomed. The most important factor of all, however, has been the splendour of their architectural heritage which even the most wanton philistines failed to destroy.

Lord Spencer's photographs are quite exceptionally good whether of architecture or of people or of both. And the book will prove a wonderful bargain not only for the pictures but also for the text. Lady Spencer is artlessly artful. She combines history with personal reminiscence in the most engaging way. The Spas are as great a part of our heritage as stately homes, castles or cathedrals - perhaps more so for they encapsulate so much of human experience - its joys and sufferings as well as its delight in beauty - all of which is brought vividly home in this beautiful book.

John Plumb

Four true strings

The String Quartet By Paul Griffiths

(Thames & Hudson, £12)

Born in somewhat obscure circumstances, brought up by Haydn and given new stature by Beethoven, in middle life somewhat neglected, the string quartet is still alive and very well indeed. So Mr Griffiths suggests in this lively, well-written history of the genre, declaring it to have "the stability yet capacity for constant renewal of a living species." There is certainly no lack of interest among living composers in the tried and true combination of two violins, viola and cello, enduring as it has through all the vicissitudes of the symphony orchestra.

If Haydn occupies the largest part of the book, that is justice not only to the volume of his output but to its range. As Mr Griffiths puts it, beside some of the symphonies he can in his quartets be "more intimately clever, more at home and more dangerous." One of the qualities of Haydn's greatness is his capacity for taking wonderful risks, without which all music-making, whether by composer or interpreter, becomes sterile. And the works are all accessible to the domestic musician, who is by no means as nearly extinct as Mr Griffiths seems to think.

But the letter the day gets, the more uncomfortable or simply defeated the amateur becomes, and the more severely taxed even the most skilled professional. Mr Griffiths scarcely justifies in his envoi his view that "it would be possible to imagine the Haydn-Dittersdorf-Mozart-Vanhal quartet sitting down to tackle Carter or Xenakis" on the grounds of the continuing appeal of the medium to social wit, personal profundity, and musical intelligence. He is an eloquent and vivid exponent of the oesthest music, but he is not entirely free

from one of the most notorious undistributed middles of criticism, namely the implication that because Beethoven was thought difficult in his time and proved to be great, it is likely to be the same with difficult works of our own time. Beethoven still is difficult.

Without attempting the range of Beethoven's major commentators, among them Kerman, Lam, and Radcliffe, Mr Griffiths manages to make some excellent points of his own about the quartet. He writes with courage and verve, and his gift for touching poignantly illuminating points to a work's structure seldom betrays him. I think he might have made more of the extraordinary major-minor drama that runs through Schubert's G major quartet, and the "Death and the Maiden" movement of the D minor quartet is surely better seen as an outcome of the powerful first movement, with its stricken shudder of a close, than as a piece requiring a prefatory movement. He is also nervous of the Paris "quatuor brillant" tradition which in turn leads him, like most writers, to underestimate Cherubini. He still manages to write about it with the enthusiasm and the quick perceptions that mark the book as a whole.

John Warrack

FOYLES ART GALLERY SIMON BOLIVAR 1783-1983 An Exhibition of Paintings to celebrate the Bicentenary of the birth of SIMON BOLIVAR The Liberator 10-6 daily until 2 Jan. 113-119 Charing Cross Road, London W.C.2

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The silent tipster

Tony Christopher, leader of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation and rumoured to succeed Len Murray as TUC general secretary is obviously very approachable to people with problems. The owner of a restaurant which he frequents recently asked his advice about a delicate financial matter. It appears that customers are increasingly adding the tip to their credit card payment when settling their bill. This makes the tips taxable, which they would not be if paid in cash. I would dearly love to know what advice Mr Christopher gave, but this particular tax man refuses to return my calls.

Times future

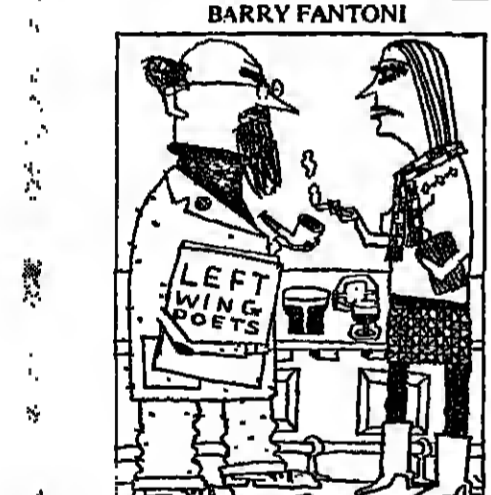
John Graham, the man who produced a publication called *Not Yet The Times* while the genuine article was off the streets in 1979, is producing a second edition to meet the date January 1, 2004 and will feature some familiar-sounding columnists looking back on 1984 from their prison cells. Mr Graham describes his paper as "a broadsheet joke". It will be easy not to confuse it with our own more serious version of events since, as well as bearing a futuristic date stamp, Mr Graham's newspaper will cost rather more than 20p.

Milked dry

The diary is a regular feature of most newspapers and magazines. *The Journalist*, official organ of the NUJ, is no exception. The column in its seventy-fifth anniversary issue about people and events goes under the heading "Diary".

Sticky wicket

The early joint favourites for the chairmanship of the all-party Select Committee on Defence, Michael Mates and Michael Marshall, have more in common than their first names and initials. Both Tory MPs share a passion for cricket: Marshall is a former BBC cricket commentator and Mates is captain of the Lords and Commons cricket team. Marshall is also a prolific author. His next book is a history of Gentlemen v Players. In view of the shenanigans which have taken place over the choice of the defence committee's chairman, this might well be a subject on which he has acquired a new understanding.



*First Roger, you must be awarded an OBE before you can send it back.

Paid-for channel

Roland Rat, like other TV stars before him, has discovered the delights of free foreign travel. His three-week trip to Switzerland will be featured in 7 separate 15-minute episodes on TV-am over Christmas and the New Year. Luckily for TV-am, which was recently beset by unpaid creditors, the Swiss Tourist Board and Swissair were "very helpful" with the jaunt to Zermatt and Saasfee. A Swissair jet will be seen winging its way to the land of the yodel at the start of each episode.

Yardstick

The Metropolitan Police are taking their time about acquiring a more sensitive image, following the rather crucial Policy Studies Institute report on their performance. In the latest issue of their magazine, *The Job*, ex-Area Commander Don Saunders warns Met men that "without an aim in their retirement, you could end up carrying the wife's shopping bag".

Vanguard

Publishing News carries a riposte by publisher Leo Cooper to bookshops which claim they cannot get certain books until after Christmas. "This is patent nonsense. Most publishers can deliver during the Christmas period with great speed and many go to ingenious lengths, like hiring vans for their reps" - replacing perhaps their usual bus or bicycle?

TalkalongaNeil

It didn't really need a two-year £34,000 study of politicians by a research team from Warwick University to discover that Neil Kinnock "has a tendency to ramble". His Shadow Cabinet colleagues will deliver the same information for free. They are finding that Shadow Cabinet meetings are getting longer and longer because of their leader's habit of never using one sentence when three paragraphs will do. After a recent two-hour marathon, one member calculated that when added together Kinnock's contributions totalled 90 minutes.

The lion in the dinosaurs' den

Mr Len Murray last night survived the biggest trial of his leadership of the TUC, but the union movement's opposition to the Government's employment legislation lay in ruins as a result. The substantial majority recorded in favour of his repudiation of support for the unlawful one-day strike called by the NGA confirms the sharp trend away from the "direct action" school of policy in opposing legal curbs on the unions. It also demonstrates that the moderates have taken a firm grip on the direction of the labour movement, but the split in the general council also shows that a substantial minority within the TUC does not accept Mr Murray's view that opposition to the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts must be kept within the law.

The TGWU immediately said it would continue to support the NGA in its present strategy to win a closed shop at the Messenger group of newspapers, which has cost £675,000 in fines for contempt of court orders not to picket the company's Warrington plant. The crisis precipitated by Mr Murray's repudiation of the expressed support for the NGA by union leaders finally put into sharp focus an internal conflict over the leadership style of the TUC General Secretary that has been simmering for months. When they met three nights ago, some members of the Employment Policy and Organization Committee were shocked at the first draft of the statement prepared for their approval. It scarcely mentioned the employer, Eddie Shah, but it condemned the violence on the Warrington picket line and Mr Murray insisted that it should be endorsed. "Does that mean we have to do as we are told?" asked Mr Moss Evans, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the largest affiliate to the TUC. The question was not without feeling. There is a powerful undercurrent of sentiment that Mr Murray is overreaching himself. It was not always so. Elected in 1973 to take over from the folksy but crafty Vic Feather, he rose to national prominence in the 1970s trade union world, Jack Jones of the transport union and Hugh Scanlon of the engineering workers. When the "terrible twins" retired, virtually simultaneously, labour commentators could see no obvious heirs among the 40-odd union leaders who then made up the general council. That is because they were looking in the wrong direction. It was Lionel Murray who was to be the new lion of the labour movement. He filled the power vacuum left by the departure of the Jones-Scanlon axis, unobtrusively at first but in recent years with evident relish. TUC policy is fashioned publicly at the annual congress each autumn and privately in the sub-committees of the general council. He dominates both. When his personal imprimatur on a peace formula for the settlement of a strike - ironically by NGA members at the *Financial Times* - was called into question four months ago, he turned on members of the General Council and reminded them that they had all asked for his support in the dispute at one time or another. He won the vote overwhelmingly, making the issue a test of the TUC's authority; and that authority was identified with his own personal standing in the matter. The TUC rule book is vague about the duties of the General Secretary and silent about the real scope of his influence. He is a full voting member of the General Council and of its major committees, though Mr Murray rarely votes and then usually only on internal issues such as the reform of the General Council itself. The rules understate his real power. His staff, most of whom are intensely loyal, write the policy papers that go to General Council committees. Within the general parameters laid down by congress decisions, they effectively determine the posture of the TUC - and that public face has come to look very much like the views of Mr Murray himself. The collision yesterday was between the political thrust of his Congress House machine, together with its newly triumphant moderate majority on the General Council, and the unions who stick defiantly to the TUC's protection policies of total hostility to employment legislation enacted by Mrs Thatcher's government. Mr Murray reportedly described the opposition of these class-struggle warriors as "the last switch of the dinosaurs". He may now be ruefully recalling that the dinosaur as a species was comparatively successful, lasting rather longer than the unions have survived. "The dinosaur unions" were out to clip the General Secretary's wings.

Paul Routledge looks at the simmering conflict behind the attempt to censure the TUC leader, Len Murray

Charles McKean argues against the Tories' laissez-faire housing policy

Why the home front is heading for collapse

Analysis of the physical state of the housing stock in England and Wales indicates that present policies on controlling capital expenditure and encouraging private ownership will leave the next government (of whatever persuasion) with little short of a major catastrophe - with a growing rate of mortgage failures, houses collapsing on the streets, and with people on housing waiting lists having no prospect of being rehoused in their lifetime. These predictions are founded on the 1981 House Condition Survey of the Department of the Environment, whose message is so alarming that one is surprised that it got past current Government policy of censoring sensitive documents. Its sensitive nature was, however, the cause of a six-month delay in publication and a quiet release. The house condition surveys are taken every five years and provide the yardstick of the rate of house improvement. The three measurements are: the number of houses actually unfit; those lacking one or more listed amenities (e.g. inside lavatory); and those requiring serious repairs (over £7,000 at 1981 prices). A decline in the number of unfit houses can imply either deterioration and rebuilding, or rehabilitation. A decline in the other two categories is almost entirely explained by rehabilitation and housing improvement. Between 1971 and 1976 the rate of improvement was quite glorious, clearly a legacy of the 1969 Housing Act with its largesse of improvement grants, with an average annual rate of 192,000 houses being demolished and replaced, or repaired. In the next five years, 1977-81, that rate of improvement dropped by more than three-quarters to 43,000 a year, and there is little doubt that it is even lower now. The situation now is that the Government, on the one hand, is paying for less improvement, and on the other that post-1919 houses are falling into serious disrepair at an accelerating rate. The number of houses requiring major repairs in 1981 was almost double that of 1971. The DoE graphs imply that by 1991 the number of such houses could double to 24 million - even if the current rate of deterioration remained static. But the housing stock is not evenly divided. There are considerable quantities of inter-war houses whose condition is likely to deteriorate all at once, which could cause a further rise in the graph. The Government currently

After Grenada, Seaga's pyrrhic walk-over

Kingston, beset with crippling economic problems, could face a constitutional crisis after today's general election. The Caribbean island, which still adheres to the British parliamentary system it inherited at independence in 1962, is likely to become a *de facto* one-party state when the votes are counted. The political opportunism shown by the Prime Minister, Edward Seaga, in calling the snap election, buoyed by his popularity over his Grenada stand and with the opposition in disarray, is likely to rebound on him. And in the end, President Reagan's closest Caribbean ally could lose as much as he may have seemed to have won. The election is being held with two years to run in Mr Seaga's first five-year term. The opposition People's National Party, led by the former Prime Minister, Michael Manley, is boycotting the polls as a protest against the government's alleged failure to implement promised electoral reforms. (Seaga retorts that the opposition party is broke, in disarray and unable to fight). When nominations closed on November 29 for the 60 seats in the House of Representatives, Seaga and his Jamaica Labour Party had already taken 54 "without ever going in the ring", in his own words. In six constituencies, independents are opposing the Labour Party, but almost none stands a serious chance. With the result already a foregone conclusion, there is now widespread concern, and Seaga's critics are drawing an ironic parallel with his support of the Grenada invasion, which was launched to restore political liberties. Meanwhile, lawyers and political scientists are searching the constitution for ways to create a place for an opposition. Mr Seaga is reported to be considering naming opposition politicians to the Senate, an

Decay and dereliction, and it can only get worse

about £25,000 - for there is no point in propping up an unstable structure. The ratio of improvement to new building is something like three quarters to one quarter. Now, assuming a standard 60-year life on these houses, the council should be repairing or replacing some 1,600 per annum - yet the cost of that would be £25m. The Government's allocation, however, is only £4m. At a recent conference a member of the city's architects' department said: "We shudder to think what another winter will do." Sheffield Council cannot rely (even if it should) on the households to undertake such work since more than a third have no income earner. The Government's view is that capital receipts from house sales would provide the necessary income in the current year some £12m. Sheffield points out that the 3,000 dwellings which have already been sold were the best and sales will now probably slump. In any case, house sales are an uneconomic way of raising capital: the average sale price is barely £11,000 - less than half the cost of a new home - and many are much cheaper. The council would have to sell several usable properties to raise the finance to construct a new one. These calculations are concerned, solely, with tackling Sheffield's existing housing stock, not expanding it. Yet there are 35,000 households on the city council's waiting list. So current investment levels in Sheffield offer the unedifying spectacle of houses collapsing in the streets of council tenants spending all their lives in unfit council property; and of people on the council waiting list ceasing to have any hope. These alarming housing predictions come at a time when unemployment in the building industry is higher than in any other industry, when it is known that investment in the building industry can be a trigger for revival. The Government says there is no alternative to its low investment in housing. There is always an alternative. What is needed is a long-term housing investment programme which takes into account the annual rates of deterioration and tackles them. It should be financed over a five or 10-year period to allow the building industry to rebuild its skills and plant. To do nothing, and let the growing house condition crisis become a problem for future governments, is the economics of the kindergarten. It will inevitably lead to demands for more mass-production houses to satisfy need. We shall be back to the 1960s, when the Government really believed that it will be in power after the next election if it is laying in store so much trouble for itself.

Barbara Crossette

Seaga: now the leader of a virtual one-party state, but his snap election could create tensions he will regret

Jamaican people on the status of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, and in calling on him to resign as Finance Minister after a substantial devaluation of the Jamaican dollar. (In addition to finance, Seaga also holds the defence and cultural portfolios). In a recent interview, Manley said he would be willing to fight another election "tomorrow" if reforms were carried out. His party would stand to gain most by the expansion of the electorate - it is popular among the young, many of whom continue to be unemployed despite Seaga's plethora of training programmes. Manley, whose office is dominated by portrait of Fidel Castro and who is portrayed by Seaga as a dangerous Cuban Trojan horse, clearly lost ground after the short-lived Grenada coup. But he is likely to gain from the present crisis, and perhaps win the next election, which is expected within a year or two. What concerns many Jamaicans is that prolonged political tension will interfere with the task of rebuilding an economy battered in the 1970s by high oil prices, the world recession and attempts by Manley's government to socialize the economic system. They also fear a resumption of the kind of political violence that left more than 100 people dead in the 1980 election campaign.

John P. Harris

A pastis master at deception

Clermont l'Hérault I have recently been involved in a ruse to deceive the American public and earn a small fee as a model. William, one of the local British exiles, is a professional photographer. He teamed up with a nice young American journalist called Franine, who was doing a series of articles on our picturesque peasantry and their quaint habits - the kind of thing that syndicates well in the Midwest. A particularly quaint habit in southern France is making one's own pastis, thus saving several pounds a bottle. Pastis is Pernod, Ricard and the like - the favourite green-yellow aniseed aperitif that turns cloudy when your pour iced water on it. Like all spirit aperitifs it is heavily taxed - more heavily than cognac or whisky, so that it costs almost as much as in Britain; wazman, a shocking state of affairs. To make it yourself at a tenth of the cost, you need anethol, colouring and alcohol. The alcohol is no problem, in small quantities. You can get 90° alcohol from French chemists, though theoretically they are not supposed to sell you more than a quarter of a litre at a time. It is perfectly drinkable if you break it down to half strength, and everyone makes his own liqueurs with it. What is illegal is the anethol, or oil of anis, simply because a bottle of home-made liqueur lasts a long time, whereas one gets through a bottle of pastis surprisingly quickly and the government does not want to be done out of its great chunk of tax. Half a teaspoonful of anethol, which can be bought legally in any country but France, is enough for a bottle of pastis. Just across the Spanish and Italian frontiers you can see the French buying little phials of a greenish fluid, *essence de pastis*, to be smuggled back home. For those who can't pop across a frontier, gypsies hawk the phials from door to door, at the bottom of an innocent-looking basket of lemons or garlic. Franine wanted a photo of a cute, anethol-selling gypsy girl. Alas! William found several candidates eager to earn an honest franc or two, but not, absolutely not, to be photographed in compromising attitudes as anethol-pushers.

Ronald Butt

Questioning the conventional

The Government need not have worried about the public's response to *The Day After*. A MORI opinion poll has shown that CND support after the film was exactly the same as before - 30 per cent among those who saw the film, but only 26 per cent of the wider public. Most people seem to have felt, quite rightly, that they had learned little that was new from the film itself, either about the horror of nuclear war or the case for or against the deterrent. Yet the subsequent discussion on television raised real questions that ought to be discussed more clearly than they often are, and which were particularly illuminated by the former United States defence secretary Mr Robert McNamara. The film had postulated a Russian invasion of western Europe, the escalation of the conflict, the firing of three tactical nuclear weapons and the final intercontinental exchange between the United States and the USSR. It is probably true to think, as Mr McNamara said, that if nuclear war was once started, at any level, it would escalate. If it began in Europe, it would almost certainly become intercontinental. There is, he said, no military use for nuclear weapons, except to deter. That, however, raises the question at what point US or nuclear weapons might have to be called into the balance to deter the Russians from using theirs? How far is it conceivable that nuclear weapons could be drawn back into more distant and less risky reserve, so to speak, by greater western reliance on conventional defence? This summer, I heard Professor Irving Kristol, the distinguished right-wing American publicist, outlining in a lecture at the London School of Economics a fascinating case for changing the basic concept of the Atlantic alliance. The alliance, he argued, was defunct. It had been based on the proposition that the US should keep troops in Europe not to fight (250,000 of them is too few for that) but to act as hostages and to engage the US with its nuclear potential, in the defence of Europe. It depended on the proposition that if the Soviet Union attacked, the US president would ultimately press the nuclear button in Europe's defence. That theory served so long as the US had nuclear superiority, but it has collapsed with US-USSR parity. It is one thing (he argued) for the US President to say from a position of nuclear superiority that he will send intercontinental ballistic missiles to destroy the Soviet Union if Europe is attacked. It is quite another to do so in the event of an attack on Europe if the result is the destruction of the US (as in the film) as well as of the Soviet Union. Therefore, runs the Kristol argument, the president would not press that button, and the idea of relying on the bluff that he just possibly might is too risky a basis for foreign policy. Since the troops are not there to fight, and could not be defended, and the button will not be pressed, Professor Kristol argued that there will be increasing pressure in the US to withdraw them. Nor does he believe in the idea of graduated deterrence (an idea invented to spare Europeans the cost of more conventional weapons), which has

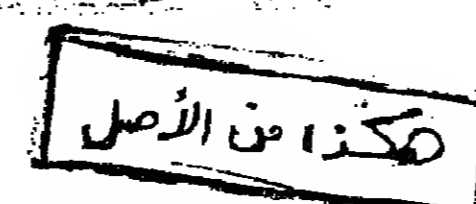
simply produced the "peace movement". The only sensible strategy, therefore, is for the Europeans, sacrificing their welfare programmes, to build up their own conventional forces so as to be able to win a wholly conventional war if attacked. What is necessary in the struggle between West and East for a free or non-free world, he says, is a strongly armed Europe, able to carry the fight back to the Soviet Union's frontiers, if attacked, with conventional forces only. It would be backed by a nuclear-armed United States ally which would have troops in Europe to fight, not simply as a symbol. It is an argument which coincides with much of what less provocative figures are saying. Thus Mr McNamara, though insisting that the United States would defend Europe, also emphasized the danger of being driven to nuclear weapons and argued for strong conventional European forces. He too no longer believes that, with parity, a Nato nuclear threat could deter a conventional attack and does not think Nato is prepared for suicide. He wants a non-nuclear zone and a declaration of non-first use of nuclear weapons. Yet there is, it seems to me, a basic flaw in the Kristol and to the extent that he shares it) the McNamara thesis. Suppose the Russians were to attack Europe with conventional forces. Suppose by conventional forces the Europeans and Americans beat back the assault to the frontiers of eastern Europe (Kristol is careful not to suggest penetrating the USSR itself in that event). Would the USSR in such circumstances allow itself to be defeated for lack of a nuclear response, however small? And however small, would it not escalate? The West having renounced the use of nuclear weapons in reply to a conventional attack, the Russians would be in exactly the same position as the West was in when its nuclear defence was its only protection against conventional weapons. By very reason of its "conventional" victory, the West itself would lay under the nuclear threat. Miss Joan Ruddock of CND insists that her organization is not pacifist and speaks of having greater conventional defence. Neither she nor her colleagues say how they would have the West respond if the Russians, having failed in a conventional invasion, then threat the West with nuclear attack. But the answer is, presumably, surrender. She does not believe that the Soviet Union seeks to invade us. Neither do I; it would be too dangerous because of nuclear weapons. But it would be hard for the Soviet Union, wishing to change Europe ideologically, not to push at a half-open door. *The Day After* is not particularly illuminating about the facts of nuclear war. But discussion about it can be very useful in helping us to clear our minds about our arrangements for defence.

It is not a subject that will go away, and the responses to this film are a valuable reminder that decisions must be made not by the emotion that blindly desires peace, but by reason which alone can give some assurance that we shall keep it.

Barbara Crossette

A pastis master at deception

Clermont l'Hérault I have recently been involved in a ruse to deceive the American public and earn a small fee as a model. William, one of the local British exiles, is a professional photographer. He teamed up with a nice young American journalist called Franine, who was doing a series of articles on our picturesque peasantry and their quaint habits - the kind of thing that syndicates well in the Midwest. A particularly quaint habit in southern France is making one's own pastis, thus saving several pounds a bottle. Pastis is Pernod, Ricard and the like - the favourite green-yellow aniseed aperitif that turns cloudy when your pour iced water on it. Like all spirit aperitifs it is heavily taxed - more heavily than cognac or whisky, so that it costs almost as much as in Britain; wazman, a shocking state of affairs. To make it yourself at a tenth of the cost, you need anethol, colouring and alcohol. The alcohol is no problem, in small quantities. You can get 90° alcohol from French chemists, though theoretically they are not supposed to sell you more than a quarter of a litre at a time. It is perfectly drinkable if you break it down to half strength, and everyone makes his own liqueurs with it. What is illegal is the anethol, or oil of anis, simply because a bottle of home-made liqueur lasts a long time, whereas one gets through a bottle of pastis surprisingly quickly and the government does not want to be done out of its great chunk of tax. Half a teaspoonful of anethol, which can be bought legally in any country but France, is enough for a bottle of pastis. Just across the Spanish and Italian frontiers you can see the French buying little phials of a greenish fluid, *essence de pastis*, to be smuggled back home. For those who can't pop across a frontier, gypsies hawk the phials from door to door, at the bottom of an innocent-looking basket of lemons or garlic. Franine wanted a photo of a cute, anethol-selling gypsy girl. Alas! William found several candidates eager to earn an honest franc or two, but not, absolutely not, to be photographed in compromising attitudes as anethol-pushers.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE FALLING POUND

For several weeks the pound has been falling toward \$1.40. It touched fresh depths again yesterday before closing in London at \$1.4170. There is an air of disbelief surrounding these events: we have a Conservative Government which believes in sound money and has successfully pursued policies designed to curb domestic inflation, keep the balance of payments in order and generally help foreign bankers sleep at night. They also seem fractionally unreal: the pound's latest fall from grace has not been reported under the once too familiar headline "Sterling Crisis".

The counterpart of the pound's weakness is the strength of the American dollar and counterpart so far, has been taken to be cause.

In a gravely troubled world, the dollar is seen as the only safe haven. The American economy is booming and acting as a huge magnet for investment capital. US interest rates are remuneratively high and because of the gorging demand for savings to cover the Federal Government's mammoth Budget deficit, they are not expected to fall. Against almost every expert prediction made in the last three years the dollar has risen. For fundamen-

tal reasons not yet properly appreciated the world may now be back on the dollar standard it abandoned during the 1970s when the supply of dollars, not least because of the huge OPEC oil surpluses appeared far to exceed the demand.

A cheaper pound is not an unmixed blessing. It is useful for exporters and generally good for profits, both desirable at this stage of our own still tentative economic recovery. But devaluation can cause problems. If it goes too far, domestic inflation may go up rather than down as higher raw material and other import costs feed through into the prices of finished goods. Were the pound's situation to deteriorate significantly, this could change from a distant anxiety to an immediate political danger.

The problem would then be whether the Government should attempt to do anything to arrest sterling's decline. As long as all currencies were suffering from the dollar's resurgence, the temptation to act hardly existed. Until the last few days the pound, by and large, has held its ground against the rest. This may now be more difficult as pressures to reduce oil prices continue to mount. Foreign

Taking a risk on the Airbus

From Lord Bewick

Sir, It is unfortunate that Jock Bruce-Gardyne's article of December 7 seeks to discredit the A320 project without recognising essential facts.

Of course national funding of aero-engine and aircraft projects in the old private-enterprise days was open to his criticism. Launch aid then was on a heads-we-win, tails-you-lose basis as far as the private companies were concerned. The Concorde project was a cost-plus contract. It simply cannot be compared with the A320 proposal.

With nationalisation launch aid stopped completely for the aircraft industry. All BAE civil projects were financed from own resources.

If Jock Bruce-Gardyne was right and the A320 proposal meant a return to the Concorde-type contract then there would be something in his argument. If the present proposal provided for the refunding by way of levy on sales then the article might be justified.

As I understand it, British Aerospace plc are seeking funds for the development, not the production, costs of the A320 and are prepared to undertake the refunding of that loan from company resources, not from sales of that one aircraft. In other words, they are prepared to take a very considerable risk on the basis of their market judgment.

In my view it is a judgment which the Government should accept.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK BESWICK,
House of Lords,
December 9.

Promoting peace in interest of war

From Mr Miles Copeland, sen

Sir, As an old cold warrior with 40 odd years' experience at waging, alternately, both war and peace, may I offer some comments on *The Day After*, the film shown on ITV yesterday evening to dramatize the horrors of a atomic war.

Until recently, I have gone annually to Washington, Chicago, San Francisco and elsewhere to attend conferences of practising political scientists who were particularly concerned with various problems of conflict resolution, the central one being the causes and prevention of armed conflict. At these meetings it was simply assumed by all those present, including a Soviet representative who sat with me twice in Chicago, that the so-called "peace movement" had traditionally been an instrument of war, never of peace.

It first appeared in the China of 500 BC when the legendary "Sun Tzu" advanced the theory that victory in war depends less on one's own strengths than on the enemy's weaknesses, and prescribed means whereby to develop those weaknesses among them probably the first "peace campaign" in history.

The promotion of "peace movements" (on the other side, of course) was used effectively by Napoleon to soften up the Austrians, then later by the Germans in World Wars I and II, with the objective of keeping first Britain, then later the United States, out of the war.

German officers interviewed by SHAEF interrogators at Freising after VE Day were unanimous in their opinion that Hitler would have ended his conquest much earlier than he in fact did if only this century's most ardent advocate of the peace movement, Dr Goebbels, had not convinced him that his

Parole as means of reducing risk

From Professor J. E. Hall Williams

Sir, Your leader of December 3, in assessing the significance of the Home Secretary's initiative concerning certain life and long-term prisoners and announcing in advance how he proposes to use his statutory discretion to bar parole for certain categories of prisoner, recognises the new element which has now been introduced into the whole business, and even goes so far as to describe it as "a discrepant factor".

It goes on to justify this departure in two respects. The policy concerning parole has always recognised that it might be against the public interest to release persons convicted of certain crimes. Secondly, the introduction of parole occurred at a time when faith in the so-called "treatment" model remained strong, but this has now faded, so that more room is found for concepts of deterrence and retribution.

Quite apart from the fact that parole provides evidence of the continuing success of the treatment model, in that more people are kept from re-offending when released on parole than when they are released without it, may I draw attention to another consideration?

Research findings show that parole works well for all categories of risk. High-risk prisoners do rather better on parole than medium and low-risk prisoners, but all are less often reconvicted. Insofar as danger to the public is a consideration, parole reduces risk.

Anyone who saw the recent television documentary on sex offenders in Maidstone prison cannot fail to have been impressed with the need for such prisoners to be released with help and support such as a parole licence might provide.

It seems hard to justify denying parole to such offenders in the last stages of their sentence. Parole has indeed a part to play in safeguarding society, whatever one's views may be about the rehabilitative ideal.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HALL WILLIAMS,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
University of London,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 12.

ALL ON THE RATES

The settlement of the rate support grant used to be one of the great annual feasts of political economy, when ministers quite consciously pushed money into the maw of local government in a bid to keep rate levies down. Yesterday's game was different. For one thing, the excitement was less. The event has now been superseded by the announcement, in July, of the government's ambitions for individual councils, then there is the November financial statement, and the scattershot pronouncements from the "maximalist" town halls about what they will spend and tax regardless of rate support grant movements. Yet the latest RSG announcement is important. It is the last to be couched in freedom before the sweeping powers contained in the rate-capping plan are presented to Parliament. It is significant because, perhaps for the first time, ministers are genuinely ambiguous about the effect of the settlement on rates. High rate rises themselves are the main reason for the rate-capping legislation: high rate rises could concentrate the minds of Parliamentary doubters; high rate rises would cost the government itself less than the propaganda team Mr Jenkin has established to sell his message.

The government precises the arithmetic as simple and in a sense so it is. With a grant total of £11.9 billion, representing 52 per cent of relevant council expenditure, average rate increases could be "low", as Mr Jenkin says, (A general pattern of rate increases about the level of inflation with some spectacularly high rises in London and the

metropolitan areas would serve an educative purpose, to be sure.) But here is the rub. So many concessions have been made during the past two years on the aggregate of current council spending that the government's relative generosity on the rate support grant could pave the way for significant overspending again in 1984-85.

There is no paradox here (and anyone interested in the finer points is strongly recommended to pick up a current copy of the estimable publication *Public Money*). At the same time as Mr Heseltine, Mr King and now Mr Jenkin have huffed and puffed over rates, the walls of revenue spending by councils have been built even higher: it increased in volume terms in 1983-84 by 1.2 per cent over the previous year, to be precise. The upshot is that a pattern of acceptable rate increases in April 1984 could be accompanied by a wholly unacceptable excess of spending over plan.

The confusion in government policy towards councils in recent years has not, as it is fashionable to say, lain in the intricate system it has devised of distributing grants to councils; any such system would be complex. The confusion has instead been fundamentally one of purpose. For three precious years under Mr Heseltine there was vacillation between changing the system of distributing money and controlling the total; since, and still, there is apparent confusion between controlling the rates levied by individual local authorities and managing the total of municipal outlays, and under the cloak of confusion

Grenada resignation

From Mr Anthony Rushford

Sir, Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Grenada, who was an ardent advocate of human rights when opposition leader at the constitutional conference in London leading to the independence of her country, has recently stated publicly that I should not have been sent to Grenada by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Sir Shridath Anand, to be the legal adviser to the Governor General of Grenada. Her statement was presumably prompted by my resignation on a point of principle as legal adviser to Sir Paul Scoon and as the member of the interim government of Grenada responsible for legal affairs on December 4. At the same time I had also placed my resignation from my appointment as Attorney General in the hands of Mr Nicholas Brathwaite, the acting chairman of the interim government.

As a result of my mission to Grenada, a constitutional civil government was restored in that island on November 15, a fortnight after my arrival, and the independent constitution, suspended by Maurice Bishop on March 22, 1979, was brought back into force to the greatest extent possible at that date, including of course the chapter on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Yours sincerely,
TONY RUSHFORD,
Antigua,
December 13.

A matter of title

From the Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art

Sir, In the course of research for the exhibition "Albert: his life and work", currently mounted at my college, I came across the Prince Consort's speech to the British Association for the Advancement of Science given at Aberdeen in 1859. He told his audience:

"From amongst the political sciences it has been attempted in modern times to detach one which admits of being severed from individual political opinions, and of being reduced to abstract laws derived from well authenticated facts. I mean Political Economy... A new Association has recently been formed, initiating our perambulating habits, and striving to comprehend in its investigations and discussions over a still more extended range of subjects, in what is called 'Social Science'. These efforts deserve our warmest approbation and goodwill."

Who better to speak of Victorian values on this matter than Prince Albert? Thatcherologists may detect, in her Secretary of State's decision to omit the word "Science" from the title of that research council responsible for social studies, some incipient U-turn to another and less resolute approach.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL MARCH,
Rector of the Royal College of Art,
Jay Mews, SW7,
December 13.

House conveyancing

From the Chairman of the Bar

Sir, In the current upsurge of debate over Mr Austin Mitchell's Bill, it seems pertinent to observe that as recently as 1979 the Royal Commission on Legal Services (the Benson Commission), having deliberated upon the matter for three years, came to the conclusion, by a majority of two to one, that the public interest in England and Wales (whatever might be the position in Scotland) would best be served by retaining, for the time being at least, the present restrictions upon conveyancing in advance of and independently from a comprehensive review and reform of the whole system of land transfer, including problems relating to conveyancing.

Such a review is surely a matter for a full Law Commission study (taking into account all legitimate interests) followed by appropriate Government-sponsored legislation, rather than for a private member's Bill which, however well-intentioned, deals only piecemeal with a part of the overall picture.

Insofar as the proposals in the present Bill relating to conveyancing are intended to promote competition, then the recent relaxation of the Law Society's rules of conduct on advertising should go a long way to achieve this end, without the necessity for further legislation.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WRIGHT, Chairman,
The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar,
11 South Square,
Gray's Inn, W.C1,
December 9.

Children and the Pill

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point (Conservative)

Sir, The statement made by Dr John Havard, Secretary of the BMA, in an article written by your Social Services Correspondent (December 2) on the subject of the issuing of contraceptive drugs and devices to children without their parents' consent cannot go without challenge.

Over 530 petitions have so far been presented to Parliament drawing attention to the views of the many hundreds of thousands of parents who are not only concerned but outraged at this practice.

They are calling in no uncertain terms for the Government to take action immediately to protect their children from both the medical and emotional harm which such drugs and devices may cause.

Dr Havard is reported as having said that if doctors were prevented from issuing contraceptives to children then there would be a corresponding increase in the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies. He ought to know that it is an accepted fact that readily available contraception to the young has corresponded with a dramatic increase in the number of abortions performed on young girls.

There are two main reasons for this - namely that teenagers do not make good candidates for the regular self-administration of drugs and that freely available contraception leads to an increase in promiscuity amongst the young.

Tronically, Dr Havard's statement has coincided with the announcement that both the rates of abortion and illegitimate pregnancies have reached record levels in this country.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BRAINE,
House of Commons,
December 6.

DANISH EYES ON ULSTER

One of the better studies of the partition of Ireland was written by a Dutch geographer. So why not a Danish journalist turned European politician? And indeed Mr Niels Haagerup's report to and on behalf of the European Parliament is rather a good piece of work. Its inception was greeted by expressions of outrage from the Prime Minister and others who saw it her way. The European Parliament was held to be exceeding its competence, and it was assumed that an outside intervention from that quarter would be blundering and at the best unhelpful. The first objection was misconceived; the second has been falsified in the outcome.

Certainly the European Parliament is not competent to prescribe solutions for the problem of Northern Ireland or entertain proposals for constitutional change. Nor does it here. On the other hand as a Parliament it is entitled to follow budgetary expenditure wherever it leads.

Northern Ireland and the immediate region on both sides of the border receive special consideration in the agricultural and regional policies of the Community, extending also to social and industrial programmes. More than £400 million has passed through those channels in the past ten years. Not a large sum in comparison with transfers from Great Britain, but still considerable and growing. This attention is well-deserved. The European Parliament is entitled to inform itself about the context in which these monies are spent, and it may, as the need for them becomes even more apparent, help to upgrade their priority

within the general expenditures of the Community.

The report itself consists of three parts. The first is a resolution to be tabled in the Parliament. There is nothing in it to which the British or Irish government should object (unless it be the suggestion that now is the time for Britain to join the European Monetary System). The resolution is careful to remain within the ground staked out as common by the operation of Anglo-Irish summits.

The longest section of the report is an analysis of the political and economic forces that condemn the province to its violent and unstable condition. It is shrewd, historically fleshed and avoids the worst pitfalls. It lets the nationalists off too lightly in the distribution of blame for the failure of the new Northern Ireland statelet to reconcile its communities; and it does not do justice to the position of the British government in relation to the hunger strike of 1981. But all in all it would be safe to put the report in the hands of an innocent abroad, the purpose for which it was written.

The final section consists of Mr Haagerup's conclusions and comments. They are, he stresses, personal. The bones of his position are that a unitary Irish state cannot be brought about in the foreseeable future. A British withdrawal would not still the violence but rather intensify it to the proportions of civil war. One may forget about Community, United States, United Nations, or Commonwealth peacekeeping forces. Political progress, if it is to be made, must be within the present constitutional framework. Ideally the aspiration and bogey of Irish unity should be put on ice in order to make way

Lines of beauty

From Mr Charles Watkins

Sir, Mr Dean (December 9) is under a misapprehension when he calls for the revival of traditional tree avenues along the routes of suitable motorways.

Avenues of roadside trees, although traditional in parts of Belgium and France, have never been traditional in this country. Occasionally, as in the case of the famous lime avenue at Chumber Park, Nottingham, a public road does run between regular rows of trees, but this is most unusual. Traditional roadside trees, whether planted or allowed to grow naturally, are normally unevenly spaced.

Avenues of trees along the routes of motorways may, as Mr Dean suggests, add beauty and dignity to the scene; they would also increase the monotony of motorway driving and help to ensure that motorways became even more prominent in the landscape than they are at present.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WATKINS,
The University of Nottingham,
Senior Common Room,
Hugh Stewart Hall,
University Park,
Nottingham,
December 9.

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BERNARD BRAINE,
House of Commons,
December 6.

Sir Oswald and Jews

From Lord Sieff of Brimpton

Sir, With reference to your article in *The Times* of Tuesday, December 13, "Sir Oswald and the Jews", my late father, Israel Sieff, was the co-founder in 1931 of PEP (Political and Economic Planning).

In 1932 Sir Oswald told father he wanted PEP, with whose work he was impressed, to put themselves at the disposal of his New Party and become what today we would call its "think tank". He explained he was a political leader in a hurry and would

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Cremation fees

From Mr David Cargill

Sir, The doctor's fee for a certificate needed before a dead body is cremated (Family Money, December 3) is not £32, but £16. The total of £32 arises from the need for two separate certificates, one by the doctor who attended the deceased and one by another who is neither a partner nor a relative of the former.

When I qualified in 1938 the fees were one and two guineas respectively. Then as now there was no fee for the ordinary death certificate, which is all that is needed for burial.

Yours etc,
DAVID CARGILL,
24 High Street,
Maldon,
Essex,
December 7.

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Yours etc,
DAVID CARGILL,
24 High Street,
Maldon,
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December 7.

Paddington derailment

From the Rev John Curtis

Sir, One can perhaps imagine a Swindon-trained railwayman leaving your correspondent (November 24) with the impression that the "back-eye" coupling system is new. However, no fan of the London and North Eastern Railway could allow such a false record to pass unremarked.

Sir Nigel Gresley used them wherever possible; his predecessor on the Great Northern Railway as Carriage and Wagon Superintendent, E. F. Howden, introduced the Gould Centre complex to the East Coast main line in 1889.

Perhaps there were earlier examples in Britain. Certainly they are a century old across the Atlantic - and fortunately still saving life and limb.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. CURTIS,
The Vicarage,
Church Road,
Claverdon,
Warwick,
November 24.

Missing the bus

From Mr S. A. Watson

Sir, Readers of your Friday back page article, "Deserted village mourns vanishing bus" (December 9) may have noticed that the "vanishing bus" pictured looked suspiciously empty.

Any such suspicion is well founded: a similar service runs past my front door. The bus that piles it long and broad and capacious; it sometimes carries a passenger.

Yours faithfully,
S. A. WATSON,
The Paddock,
North Elmham,
Dereham,
Norfolk,
December 9.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Casino merger game spins to a standstill

The Monopolies Commission has, much as expected, turned down the Pleasurama Trident merger...

The commission's verdict was not a majority one - there was one dissenting voice on the six-man team...

This is where Grand Met - which controls six casinos and 44 per cent of the drop - comes into the picture...

Rules for a trading union

The Stock Exchange has got down to tackling the fine detail of how stockbrokers and stockjobbers may begin competing with the American banks...

A final debate on the draft rules is likely on Tuesday, after which a period of consultation will be needed...

Part of the promise made by Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, to Mr Cecil Parkinson...

The basis of these untested broker/jobber unions are of paramount importance. This is the first example of what will effectively be dual capacity with brokers and jobbers allowed to give net prices...

Rules covering those international dealerships may well prove a basis for other changes as the exchange moves towards dual capacity at home...

NEWS IN BRIEF

EuroRoute 'ahead' in channel link

EuroRoute, the Anglo-French project to provide a rail-road channel link, claimed a significant lead over rival schemes yesterday...

Banks' delay rules out Brazil loan this year

There is now no hope that the \$6.5 billion new money loan for Brazil can be made by December 31 - a date seen as essential only a month ago...

The US banks fear that, if the loan is not made by December 31, Brazil will not be able to meet outstanding interest payments on old loans within 90 days...

Banks elsewhere fear that Brazil may direct payments towards the US at their expense - and are refusing to bail out the Americans with help on a bridging loan that would allow the rescue package...

He said: "I do not consider it by any means inconceivable that Brazil will be able to reduce arrears, right across the board, to comply with maturity dates within the critical 90-day period."

Commission go-ahead could lead to long battle

Early decision expected on Steetley bid

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is putting the finishing touches to its report on Hepworth Ceramic's £115m bid for Steetley...

The Commission's investigations have centred on the dominant market positions of the two groups in refractories - heat-resistant bricks used mainly in steel-making...

Westland increased its profits from £23.9m to £26.1m last year on a turnover up from £244m to £236m. The dividend has been increased from 7.5p to 8.25p

Investors' Notebook, page 17. Gulf Oil is looking at the economics of acquiring Superior Oil but has not made any decisions. Mr James Lee, chairman told securities analysts

Allianz and BAT up stakes in tit-for-tat takeover battle

By Jeremy Warner

Both Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, and BAT Industries, the British tobacco and retailing empire, raised their record-breaking takeover bids for Eagle Star yesterday.

But the moves were seen in the stock market as mere sorties in the battle for control which is not expected to reach its climax until next week.

Allianz was first to act. Complying with Takeover Panel rules that it must meet a promise to top BAT's £914m bid, it raised the ante marginally to £917m - 665p a share - at 9.30 am.

This was immediately recommended to shareholders by the Eagle Star board of directors which has persistently backed BAT as the preferred bidder.

The takeover Panel is also said to be taking a keen interest in this statement, made immediately after BAT raised its offer since it could be taken as an indication of intentions.

The seriousness of Allianz's fight for control appeared to be underlined in the City where a substantially greater, than the latest offers.

The price closed just 2p lower at 717p in the belief that the bidding will not end until the value of £1 billion - worth 724p a share - is reached.

Allianz made clear that it was still to decide what level of bid it should make. It said it was well advanced in its full review of the decision would be made next week.

Allianz said that it was still committed to pursuing the takeover bid in spite of BAT's offer and it urged Eagle Star shareholders not to sell their shares in the stock market.

The significance of this statement was not lost on dealers who said it indicated a willingness by Allianz to pay more than 717p a share.

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Sir Denis Mountain: "Irrelevant questions."

£3000m syndicated loan was being arranged on its behalf.

Allianz again wrote to Sir Denis Mountain yesterday requesting further information.

Failure to provide this could deprive shareholders of the best possible price for their shares, it said.

Sir Denis said last night that he had not had time to study the letter adequately but he saw no reason why his position should change.

The letter requests clarification on why the Eagle Star board considers it has a better future with BAT than with Allianz, asks for what assurances would be necessary to win approval from the Eagle Star board on what basis a higher offer from Allianz would draw a recommendation from the Eagle Star board. It also requests information on business prospects.

Mr George Magan, a director of Morgan Grenfell, Allianz's merchant bank adviser, said he found it surprising that BAT had not already asked for the kind of information that Allianz was requesting.

"These are straightforward questions about the business," he said.

This drew a firm rebuttal from Lazard Brothers director, Mr Tom Manners, who is advising BAT. "If they'll mind their business, we will mind ours," he said.

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Wages outstrip inflation

Average earnings are still running ahead of the rate of inflation, and are being boosted by more overtime and less short-time working.

Figures published yesterday by the Department of Employment show that average earnings grew at an underlying rate of 7.5 per cent in the year to October.

Short-time working is the lowest since October 1979. The effect of these extra payments is to put an upward pressure on earnings at a time when the Government and industry is hoping to reduce settlements.

Both figures apply to manufacturing industry and indicate that the recovery is beginning to feed through. The figures are not a particularly significant guide, however, to the overall earnings trend since only about 5 per cent of settlements are reached in the month.

The department does not expect any marked change until the early spring.

Unit wage costs in industry rose slightly from 3.6 per cent to 4.2 per cent in the latest three months. Average earnings have fallen by only 1 percentage point since this time last year, despite the much sharper fall in the rate of inflation.

Objection by Britoil to shipyard takeover

A scheme to save part of the troubled Scott Lithgow yard on the lower Clyde, which would involve a temporary takeover by its main customer, Britoil, was described as "unacceptable" by the oil company yesterday.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and Mr Graham Day, British Shipbuilders' chairman, are expected to discuss the scheme in London today.

But, in a terse statement, Britoil said: "This is not an option which is under consideration."

Britoil is believed to be only days away from cancelling its order for a £86m oil rig, which is only a quarter finished, at the yard. The rig is already two years behind schedule.

Britoil says the only option it would consider are renegotiation of the contract, or cancellation with the order being reassigned to a Japanese or South Korean yard.

However, Mr Day has already ruled out renegotiation, claiming that British Shipbuilders cannot afford any further penalty payments above the £6.5m it already owes Britoil.

The scheme, believed to be under consideration by the Scottish Office, would require Britoil to activate a bankruptcy protection clause in the existing contract.

It would allow Britoil to complete the rig with its own workforce at the Scott Lithgow site. Although the scheme would reduce the number of workers at the yard from 4,200 in 800, it is believed that a successful completion would leave the yard ripe for privatization.

The scheme has also met with hostility from the unions and the local Labour MP, Dr Norman Godman.

He said: "It is unacceptable for the yard to close or for its workforce to be run down."

Cancellation by Britoil would mean closure for the yard.

Home loans cash still flowing in

Savings continued to flow into the building societies last month, enabling them to keep lending at near-record levels and further build their reserves.

However, with demand for mortgages still strong, there is no sign of an early cut in the mortgage rate from 11.25 per cent.

Net receipts last month of £870m were below the record of £978m reached the previous month. But the receipts were still the best for a November and the societies also raised a further £249m net by issuing bonds and certificates of deposit in the City.

Normally, savings deposits decline in the run-up to Christmas, but the attractive interest rates offered by the building societies has helped to keep the money coming in and net receipts have topped £800m in each of the last three months.

The societies have still consolidated their liquidity although mortgage lending by them was the second highest on record last month at £1,710m, and a further £1.836m was promised to homebuyers. Their liquidity ratio, down as low as 17.1 per cent in June, has now risen to a comfortable 19.5 per cent.

But Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general of the Building Societies Association hinted yesterday that the societies could not afford to lower their interest rates.

It was likely, he said, that lending records would soon be broken and added: "Mortgage demand remains strong for the time of year and, in order to meet this demand, societies will continue to need the high level of savings."

Uncertainties over the pound and domestic interest rates may discourage the building societies from considering an early move on the mortgage rate.

Posgate suspended for six more months

Mr Ian Posgate, whose business acumen as an underwriter once earned him the nickname "Goldfinger", has been suspended by Lloyd's of London again.

The new suspension is for six months and will run from Boxing Day, when an earlier suspension was due to expire.

The suspensions are what Lloyd's terms "administrative" rather than punitive and are to give the Lloyd's investigations committee more time to consider the conclusions of the inquiry into the Alexander Howden affair.

The investigations committee is expected to decide whether disciplinary charges should be brought against Mr Posgate and four former directors of Howden in the New Year.

Mr Posgate did not give evidence personally at yesterday's sub-committee meeting, but written representations from his solicitors were considered.

A Lloyd's spokesman said: "We know we are depriving him of his livelihood, so this decision was not taken lightly."

Mr Posgate is said to have earned £700,000 a year before his suspension.

But the spokesman was unable to confirm that copies of the report into the Howden affair, said in run to 500 pages, had been passed to the Department of Trade and Industry.

No decision has yet been taken on whether the report will be sent to "names" (members) affected by the affair. Lloyd's is keen to restrict its circulation to avoid legal problems.

Profits soar at S & N

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Half-year to 31.10.83. Pretax profit £31.8m (£22.5m). Stated earnings 7.7p (4.5p). Full year £24.6m (£15.4m). Net interim dividend 1.73p (1.5p). Share price 99p Yield 6.9%

were static, while the tied public houses also made progress.

Thistle Hotels, with a 90 per cent jump in profitability, made the most impressive showing. Among the wine and spirits division progress was much slower, particularly scotch whisky sales.

WALL STREET

New York, yesterday Dow Jones stocks were retracing after a widening area after the failure of an early rally effort.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down more than 3 points - to below 1,253. The Transportation Average was down more than 4 points to about 600. Trading activity was moderate.

General Electric was down 1/4 at 57 1/2, Exxon down 1/4 at 38, General Motors down 1/2 at 73 1/2, International Business Machines up 1/4 to 122 1/2, Westinghouse down 1/4 at 54 1/2, and Union Carbide up 1/4 at 62 1/2.

Bristol-Myers was 41 1/4 down 1 1/4, Union Carbide 82 down 1 1/4, Sanders Associates 50 down 1 1/4, Southern Pacific 39 1/2 down 1 1/4, Santa Fe Industries 30 1/2 down 1 1/4, Honeywell 134 1/4 down 1 1/4.

Investors stay away

The equity market ran for shelter yesterday as most of the activity in the City continued to centre on the money market where the pound was again having a bad time.

Turnover almost dried up to a trickle and this was reflected in the FT Index which having been 1.5 down, closed 6.5 up at 751.1. With Christmas near investors appear in no rush to open new positions and the market is expected to drift gently lower until the New Year.

Market report, page 16

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 751.1 up 0.5 FT 100 Index 82.30 down 0.13 FT All Share: 463.21 down 0.29

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4170 down 25pts Index 81.8 down 0.2 DM 3.9225 down 0.0100 FF 11.9525 down 0.0400 Yen 338.25 down 2.25 Dollar Index 130.8 unchanged DM 2.7650 down 0.0042 NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.4180 Dollar DM 2.7655 INTERNATIONAL ECUE5.57451 SDRE0.729839

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rate 9 Finance houses base rate 9 1/2 Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2 3 month interbank 9 3/4-9 7/8 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 3/4-10 1/2 3 month DM 5 1/4-5 3/8 3 month FR 13 3/4-13 1/2 US rates: Bank prime rate 11.00 Fed funds 9 1/8 Treasury long bond 9 3/4-9 5/8 ECGB Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 0 November 2 to 0 December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$350.00 pm \$350.00 close \$388.00-388.75 (£273.75-274.25) New York latest: \$388.25 Kruggerand (per coin): \$400.00-401.50 (£282.00-283.00) Sovereigns (new): \$91.00-92.00 (£64.25-65.00) Excludes VAT

Abbey National have a haven for roll-up money



Seven Day Account pays 8.25% net! New taxation laws seem certain to make offshore 'roll-up' funds a lot less attractive from January 1st. Now's the time to consider the alternatives.

Whether you consider it as a permanent harbour or temporary haven, the Seven Day Account will welcome you back to shore. Your money is readily available on seven days notice of withdrawal, with no financial penalties whatever for withdrawal.

The maximum investment is £30,000 (£20,000 for joint accounts). The minimum just £100. Come in at the start!

Form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Signature, Date, and Abbey National logo.

Abbey National Building Society, 21 Baker Street, London W1M 2AA

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Bitter pill for Mr Cube

Shares of Tate & Lyle ended the day on a bitter note yesterday tumbling 7p to 373p as a large chunk of shares changed hands and sent a shudder of apprehension through Mr Cube's boardroom.

Broker Hoare Govett arranged a put through of 2.75 million shares, around 4 per cent of the equity, at the 370p level. Word is the shares, worth £10.1m, were part of a stake built up by Lord Hanson's, Hanson Trust, which is presently sitting on more than £400m in cash. The shares may have been sold to one buyer.

Mr James Forbes, finance director at Tate & Lyle, said he was aware of the transaction and understood the seller to be one of the group's nominee shareholders. Asked if he knew the mystery buyer Mr Forbes replied: "It takes a few days to find these things out. We will be looking at the share register."

Hanson has never admitted to owning any shares in T & L. The declared level is 5 per cent. Mr Martin Taylor, a director at Hanson, said: "We never comment on this sort of speculation."

Shares of Hanson closed at 267p last night. Did speculation continue to act as the only spur for interest in the rest of the equity market in the run up to Christmas. The FT Index having been 1.5 lower earlier in the day closed with a net gain of 0.5 at 7511.1.

On the foreign exchange the pound continued to plumb new depths as increased fears of imminent cut in the North Sea oil price - a suggestion vehemently denied by BNOC. But in Rotterdam the spot oil price continued to fall below the official price level. The pound ended the day 25 points down at a second low against the dollar of \$1.4170.

Chris joined in the shakeout with falls of up to 50p at the longer end in nervous trade, but managed to close below their worst levels of the day as a few bargains hunters appeared on the scene.

Among blue chips BOC Group, the industrial gases group, made start billing with a leap of 13p to a new high of 277p helped by renewed demand for the shares from New York. A group of City analysts recently returned from a trip to the group's troubled US operation and reported signs of a pick-up.

Broker Grieson Grant has recently paid a visit to Marks & Spencer which has confirmed its earlier expectation that the group is set for a bumper Christmas leading pretax profits of £275m in the present year. But Grieson is now confident that M & S can maintain its 15 per cent growth rate and may even be worth £325m in 1984/85. The shares eased 1p to 217p.

strong performer racing 16p to a new high of 308p in a thin market following several buy recommendations produced this week. Broker de Zoete & Bevan is looking for full year pretax profits of £70m in the present year against £52m last year and nearer £76m next year. de Zoete is impressed with MB's attempts at reducing costs and better profits mix.

Broker Henderson Crosthwaite takes a similar view and says the group is very well benefiting from a two year haul of lower costs and reducing its exposure in the less profitable markets.

The decision to proceed with a stock market flotation for Reuters was good news for newspaper publishers with a direct stake in the international newsagency. Fleet Holdings, owner of the Daily Express, Daily Star and Sunday Express, rose 4p to 125. International Thomson 10p to 700p and Liverpool Daily Post 1p to 85p.

Highgate & Job continued to benefit from the increase stake taken by Peachfield spurring 10p to 110p.

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M logo for building products, heat exchange, drinks dispense, fluid power, special-purpose valves, general engineering, refined and wrought metals. Mll plc, Birmingham, England

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, date, and price.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for fund name, price, and yield.

MEDICAL table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for authority name, price, and yield.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for bank name, price, and yield.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for company name, price, and yield.

High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E table with columns for company name, price, change, percentage, and P/E ratio.

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Sterling: Spot and Forward table with columns for market rates and exchange rates.

Money Market Rates table with columns for bank rates and overnight rates.

Other Markets table with columns for various market rates and exchange rates.

Dollar Spot Rates table with columns for dollar rates and exchange rates.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table with columns for trust names and prices.

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Table of company financials including Amalgamated Pinnacle, Smith Whitworth, Centreway Trust, T Cowie, Stainless Metallcraft, and Centreway Industries.

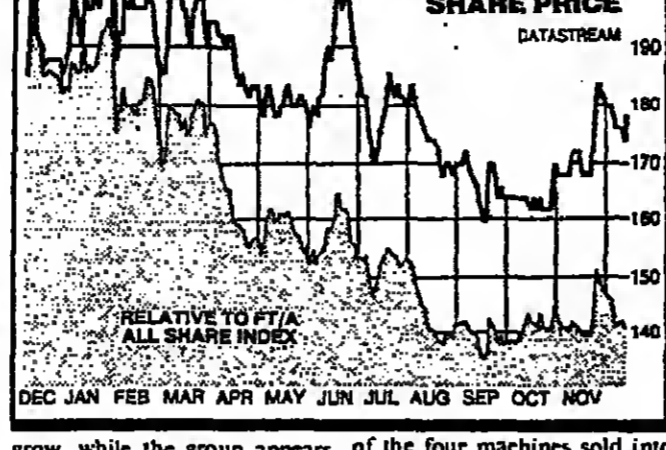
WALL STREET

Table of stock market data including various indices and company prices.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Northern serves up successful recipe

Mr Nicholas Horsley, chairman of Northern Foods, is right to feel more than usually pleased with the yearly profits of his pork pies to dairy products and biscuits group.



Further provisions have been made for this year, but they do not relate to the US accident which is covered by insurance.

In the 12 months to the end of September, they rose 21 per cent at the pretax level from £41.3m to £50.1m.

Given the problems faced by the group's Bluebird meat products offshoot in the United States, and the uncertainties overhauling the dairy business in Britain, this is particularly creditable performance.

The outstanding feature of the results was the profits of Pork Farms, the pies and sausages subsidiary. These rose by about 60 per cent.

York plant and concentrating production at Barmsey. Of the 1,650 jobs, 650 go. The company said that the worst of the market contraction, caused by foreign imports and plastic packaging, has taken place and the costs of rationalization have been absorbed in the past fiscal year.

Its extremely rapid growth is being helped by buoyant Marks and Spencer food sales. M&S, which include dairy and bakery products, is rising at an even faster rate.

With the retail chain now accounting for a substantial proportion of the group's British sales and a much larger proportion of profits, it comes as no surprise to learn that most capital spending this year is being devoted to extending the production facilities for Marks and Spencer.

The group is having a good Christmas and is confident of the longer term future. Key-stone in the US, which made a full 12-month contribution for the first time to last year's figures, should continue to

grow, while the group appears to have put the problems of Bluebird behind it, though not without substantial cost. About £9.4m has been charged below the line for Bluebird rationalization - this has involved closing the smoked meat plants in Chicago and Philadelphia, which means the company will be less exposed to the sometimes violent fluctuations in the US meat trading markets.

Westland's only type of civil helicopter, the W30, should be flying again with modifications after an accident involving one

of the four machines sold into the lucrative US market. Lord Aldington, the chairman, said yesterday that no orders for the W30 had been lost because of the grounding of the aircraft but there had been no orders since.

The Indian Government has expressed an interest in buying 27 W30s, an order worth about £30m. Westland still hopes to win the order. A previous order from the Indian Navy for the Sea King, said to be worth up to £200m, was largely responsible for a big increase in the value of the order book at the end of last year.

It increased from £38.5m to £51.3m and includes some big British Government orders after the Falklands conflict. Helicopter sales last year rose and margins were also improved, which helped to increase Westland's profits from £23.9m to £26.1m, less than the market had expected.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Rubber, Sugar, Coffee, and various metals.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

Large table listing various financial units and insurance funds with their respective values and yields.

APPOINTMENTS

New chief at bankers association

British Bankers' Association: Mr R J Dent, a managing director of Baring Brothers & Co., becomes chairman of the executive committee from January 1. He succeeds Mr D G Barber, a general manager with the Midland Bank.

Base Lending Rates

Table showing base lending rates for various banks and financial institutions.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a list of names or contact information.

With memories of the Britoil flop Jonathan Davis looks at the next big sell-off issue

Enterprise Oil flotation must resolve problem of pricing

The run-in to the Government's next great privatization issue, the flotation of Enterprise Oil, is now firmly under way. The appointment a few days ago of Mr Graham Hearne as chief executive of the fledgling company is the most crucial step so far on the way to what promises to be one of the most intriguing - and delicate - sell-offs that the Government has yet undertaken. The next step will be announced shortly when the Government says which two stockbroking firms it has appointed to join Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank as its advisers.

A "beauty contest" to pick the two firms was held two weeks ago, and the fact that the Government has felt the need to take the unusual step of appointing broking advisers six months before the issue is scheduled to take place reflects its awareness that the ground for this flotation needs to be carefully prepared.

This is because Enterprise Oil is an unusual beast. The company was set up this year to dispose of its oil assets has been resisted fiercely by the corporation's board and its chairman Sir Dennis Rooke since the legislation was first announced in July 1981 by Mr Nigel Lawson, then Energy Secretary.

By a nice irony, the task of completing the privatization process has fallen to Mr Lawson's successor as Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, a man who does not always agree with Mr Lawson on the subject of privatization.

It was Mr Walker who took the final decision three months ago to float the assets on the stock market as a single company rather than sell them off piecemeal to other oil companies.

Part of the reasoning behind the decision was a desire to create another middle-ranking British oil company, which, with luck, will be able to develop to fill the gap between the oil companies such as BP and Shell and the pool of smaller independent exploration companies such as Charterhouse Petroleum, Clyde Petroleum and Tricentrol.



Graham Hearne (left), Peter Walker and William Bell. Crucial question is how Enterprise develops after flotation

This was a course that was also followed with the flotation of Britoil last year, an unhappy experience that has not made any easier the task of presenting the City with another state-owned oil company.

Memories of the disastrous underwriting flop with Britoil has left many institutions distinctly wary. Enterprise is in many ways a more attractive animal than Britoil, but the unusual nature of its origins have posed their own difficulties.

The company is rich in assets and cash flow, but as a newly-created - effectively "off the shelf" - company, it had no management until a few months ago and has no trading record as an independent company.

This marks it out from previous privatization issues, including Britoil. For example, Mr Walker and Kleinwort Benson will have to ask for a dispensation from the Stock Exchange to allow the company to seek a full market listing without having met the normal requirements for disclosure of financial information.

The only set of figures Enterprise is likely to produce before flotation is a *pro forma* trading statement covering the eight months from May to the end of this month.

The Government has been quick to find the kernel of a management team. For the last three months the company has been run from borrowed offices in Fenchurch Street under two seconded directors, Mr Peter Elwes, a director of Kleinwort, and Mr Julian West, a young, but highly able assistant secretary, from the Department of Energy.

This was always intended as an interim move, and Mr Walker has now announced the appointment of Mr William Bell, a director of Shell, as non-executive chairman, and Mr Hearne as full-time chief executive.

One of the first tasks facing Mr Hearne, who will take over on March 1 at a salary more than £80,000 a year, will be to build a team of 35 to 40 people, including about 20 exploration specialists such as geologists.

Financially, the final shape of the company will depend on the way in which the Government agrees to establish its capital structure.

The company is generating positive cash flow at a considerable rate, but is not yet clear whether the Treasury will endeavour to claw back the estimated £80m surplus the company is expected to have accumulated since the beginning of May.

The crucial question about Enterprise is how it develops once it has been floated. Mr Walker knows that if the company is to be sold successfully as a flourishing new British oil company, the management must demonstrate the ability to build on - rather than squander - the valuable cash flow with which it has been invested.

For tax reasons, as well, it is imperative for Enterprise to expand its exploration interests as rapidly as possible. From next year onwards it will otherwise face substantial charges for both Petroleum Revenue Tax and Corporation Tax as first North West Hutton and then the Beryl field reach peak production.

Mr Hearne said this week that he will be looking urgently at the options for tax efficient expansion, including acquisitions and "farm-ins" to other companies exploration acreage.

There is no shortage of acquisition candidates, particularly among the smaller British exploration companies, many of which are undergoing a painful period of readjustment.

Tricentrol and Carless Capel - Mr Hearne's two previous oil company employers - are certain to figure on the list of possible candidates, although neither is the perfect match for

Enterprise on tax grounds. The company will also be bidding strongly for licences in the North Sea round, expected next year, and will be keen to acquire operator status, as opposed to its present role as a minority partner in the North Sea.

It will also be looking overseas. Apart from the tiny Arbroath discovery, Enterprise's batch of inherited North Sea licences is also thought to contain a potentially commercial discovery near the Forties field. Tax reasons again make it attractive for the company to develop a new North Sea field as quickly as possible.

All of which adds up to a hatful of potential. Unlike Britoil, which was overloaded with assets and drilling commitments, and burdened with a debt-heavy balance sheet, Enterprise looks like starting life with considerable freedom of manoeuvre and a virtually clean balance sheet. This is bound to be attractive to the market.

On the other hand, with no track record to look at and the promise of a series of deals coming to fruition immediately after the flotation, investors who buy the Government's shares will inevitably be taking a plunge into the dark.

Brokers in the City have, meanwhile, been hammering home the point that the success of the flotation - and the company - will hinge even more than usual on what faith the institutions place on the ability of the management to strike the right deals at the right price.

Initial reaction to the first management appointments has been mixed. Mr Hearne, a Rothschild's man who moved on to be finance director of Courtaulds from 1977 to 1981, has a reputation as tough negotiator and deal-maker.

He admits that his technical knowledge of the industry is limited, and oil analysts and fund managers are divided about what sort of success he achieved in his two years at Tricentrol, before his sudden resignation this year.

It is a tight schedule. The main problem for Mr Walker and his advisers at Kleinwort Benson, looks like being pricing the issue correctly.

Today's provisional estimates that the flotation will raise £400m may well prove to be out by some margin.

Financial notebook

New horizons for discount houses

The City has been alive with rumour and speculation over mergers and takeovers in the financial industry ever since the Government struck its deal with the Stock Exchange to exempt it from the requirements of the Office of Fair Trading.

But one corner of the square mile virtually ignored in the present feverish mood is the discount market.

This is rather odd because behind the arcane image of the discount houses lies a wealth of talent and expertise in managing liquidity and dealing in short-term securities and financial instruments.

The popular notion that the houses are more akin to stuffy gentlemen's clubs which the Bank of England finds convenient to preserve may still contain a grain of truth in some cases. But the best of them employ some of the sharpest brains in the City and have grown through innovation and skill in taking positions in the markets in which they operate.

Traditionally, the discount houses have been the market-makers in Treasury bills and sterling bank bills - a market which is now worth about £12 billion. Several of them also make a market in certificates of deposit and they are deal-capable operators in numerous other securities. Recently the three biggest houses have begun to deal in the increasingly popular floating-rate note market.

Given their expertise in short-term financial instruments and skills as market-makers, it is not hard to see how a discount house might fit into a broader financial group seeking to offer a full range of services in the securities markets to customers.

Indeed market-making skills are certain to be at a premium if, as many believe inevitable, the introduction of negotiated commissions on the Stock Exchange leads to dual-capacity trading. It would be easy to imagine, for instance, discount houses becoming market-makers in the short end of the gilt market if regulations allowed.

Of course any discussion about the future of the 18 discount houses returns eventually to the Bank of England which uses its bill market dealings with the houses to regulate the level of liquidity in the banking system as a whole. By providing lender-of-last-resort facilities to the houses, the Bank enjoys a unique hold over this sector of the financial industry. Without it a discount house would not be able to operate.

It is no secret that the Bank would like to see more mergers among smaller discount houses to help balance the strength of the two biggest, Gerrard & National and Usher Discount, which together account for about three-fifths of the market. But it is also no secret that the Bank has no wish to see the amount of capital employed in the market greatly increased.

The Bank's attitude has meant that rights issues for discount houses have in effect been ruled out, save in exceptional circumstances, and it has always been assumed that the Bank would never countenance a takeover of a discount house.

The houses, meanwhile, although some have attempted to diversify on a small scale, remain relatively small. They lack resources for significant acquisitions and because of the relatively low ratings and high yields accorded to their shares, it is expensive to try to buy into new areas through acquisitions.

Whether the Bank might countenance the takeover of a discount house in the future remains to be seen.

When Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT & Northern announced it was merging with Charterhouse Group, which owned the accepting house Charterhouse Japhet, the Bank of England was certainly interested. But in the Bank's eyes the merger, which involved shareholders in both groups receiving shares in a new company, did not constitute change of control of the merchant bank.

Why shouldn't a discount house follow the same route? Peter Wilson-Smith

| Field | Share % | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 |
|-----------|---------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Fulmer | 1.564 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 1.1 |
| Beryl | 10.0 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 11.5 | 10.7 | 10.1 | 9.5 |
| Hutton NW | 25.77 | 14.2 | 25.87 | 25.87 | 25.8 | 22.9 | 19.1 | 16.0 | 13.4 |
| Montrose | 30.77 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Mutton | 10.31 | - | - | - | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 7.9 |
| | | 27.7 | 39.4 | 48.3 | 52.2 | 48.3 | 43.5 | 38.1 | 34.4 |

Source: de Zoete and Boyan.



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Commercial property

Mixed prospects

For those considering overseas investment in 1984, two reports are one on the US, the other on Hongkong - provide a vivid contrast of the prospects. The Hongkong property scene remains depressed by uncertainty about the colony's future, but the US market could serve investors well.

Handicapper takes his hat off to unbeaten El Gran Senor

By Dick Hinder

Vincent O'Brien's unbeaten colt, El Gran Senor, has been rated the leading two-year-old of 1983 with 787 under the international classification and Free Handicap, announced by the Jockey Club yesterday.



El Gran Senor (left) mastering Rainbow Quest in Dewhurst Stakes (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Derby Shareef Dancer had easily beaten Caerleon, the Froese Derby winner and the English Derby winner, Teosno. "You cannot take away from a horse what he has achieved, even if it was in one race," he said.

After her brilliant autumn campaign in France, Canada and the United States, the Arc heroine, All Along, was an automatic choice to head the senior international classification.

Bregawn's fall lets in Prince Rowan

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Yesterday was certainly a day of mixed fortunes for Michael Dickson, a rare experience for a man accustomed to going title wrong.



Browne: fortunate to

By finishing third yesterday Get Out Of My Way, ran well enough to be a force to contend with in the Welsh National at Chepstow on December 27. Corals, which had just race promptly clipped his tail to 14-1 from 20-1.

Jetharts Here tries again

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Jetharts Here, who toothed the soft ground in this year's National, will next year attempt to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury last month.

Southwell

Going good. 11.45 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHASE (Div 1) (novices): £1,061; 3m 110yd (10 runners).

Haydock Park programme

- Going: good to soft. Tote Double: 2.0, 3.0. Treble: 1.30, 2.30, 3.30. 1.0 HINDLEY GREEN HURDLE (Novices: £1,272; 2m) (20 runners).

Haydock selections

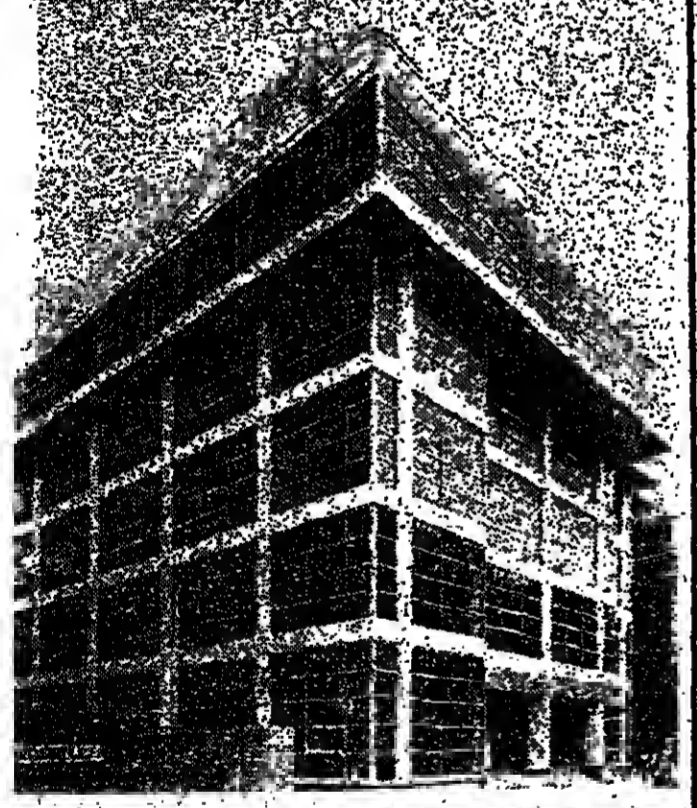
- 1.05 Corporal Clinger, 1.30 Red Mills, 2.0 Golden Knoll, 2.30 Ashley House, 3.0 Pottersall, 3.30 Raynham Post.

Haydock results

- 1.05 Corporal Clinger, 1.30 Red Mills, 2.0 Golden Knoll, 2.30 Ashley House, 3.0 Pottersall, 3.30 Raynham Post.

Catterick

- 1.05 Corporal Clinger, 1.30 Red Mills, 2.0 Golden Knoll, 2.30 Ashley House, 3.0 Pottersall, 3.30 Raynham Post.



Bishops Court, a new 55,000 sq ft office building in Artillery Lane, beside Liverpool Street Station, has been let to Gibbs Insurance Holdings, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

LANGLEY, BERKS. Near Slough and Heathrow. One mile from M4 & M25 Motorways. INDUSTRIAL/WAREHOUSING PREMISES. (Area approx. 143,000 sq. ft.) with MODERN OFFICES. (Area approx. 16,600 sq. ft.) AVAILABLE IN REFURBISHED CONDITION, AT AN AVERAGE RENTAL OF £3.50 per sq. ft. Details from Sole Agents: A. J. HINES & CO. 58/59 Highgate West Hill, London N6 6BU. 01-341 3425 Telex: 267344 AJHNC G

Southwell. Going good. 11.45 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHASE (Div 1) (novices): £1,061; 3m 110yd (10 runners). 12.15 CHRISTMAS TREE CHASE (handicap): £1,322; 2m 74yd (15). 1.15 CHRISTMAS BOX HURDLE (Div 1): 3-y-o selling; £824; 2m (10). 1.45 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CHASE (handicap): £1,136; 3m 110yd (12). 3.15 CHRISTMAS PARTY HURDLE (novices): conditional jockeys: £414; 2m (10). Southwell selections. (By Our Racing Staff) 11.45 Member's Relish, 12.15 Mons Lad, 12.45 Just For The Crack, 1.15 English Muffin, 1.45 Loch Ryan House, 2.15 Pearty Steps, 2.45 Commander Christy, 3.15 Anouch.

Jetharts Here tries again. The boat show is back. The January Yachting World not only has a full Boat Show preview but two big new series: 'Cruising Yachts' by Don Street and an advanced 'Ready for Racing' series beginning with how to commission a race boat. Yachting World. January issue out now!

McCarthy signs for City to fill gap left by Caton

Manchester City have completed the transfer of Barnsley's defender Mick McCarthy for £200,000 and he will make his first appearance at Cambridge on Saturday...



Sealy: one of two signings by Fulham

Luxembourg beaten by Greece

Greece 1 Luxembourg 0 Athens (Reuters). - A valiant attempt by Luxembourg to secure even one point before finding out of the European Championship ended in failure yesterday...

Scotland seem to have lost their pride, McClelland says

Northern Ireland's twenty-eighth and final victory over Scotland at Windsor Park on Tuesday evening in the last home international championship is history...

Traumatic times for West Germany

Bona (Reuters) - The West German season starts its annual winter break this week but the public future over the dramatic decline in the nation's football fortunes shows no sign of abating...

Henley is swanning along nicely

Henley Royal Regatta is well ahead and beauty, a fact reflected in the annual accounts published after the stewards' annual meeting yesterday...

Sharp Thorne is on the losing side

Willie Thorne put on a brilliant nine-man show in the Hofmeister world doubles championship at Northampton yesterday, but still ended up on the losing side of the quarter-final round against the defending champions, Steve Davis and Tony Meo...



Thorne: recorded highest break of 139

Birmingham director doubts share issue

But Mr Burman said: "In my view the club is in a serious position. Unless finances are put on a permanent and proper sound basis, as a professional man, I cannot continue to be associated with it."

Redknapp impressed by Windsor

Harry Redknapp, the manager of Bournemouth, was a relieved man after his side had earned a goalless draw at Windsor and Eton in the second round of the FA Cup on Tuesday night.

Hamburg in back taxes wrangle

Hamburg (Reuters) - The European champions, Hamburg, whose title was secured in a 2-0 victory over Borussia Dortmund on Sunday, were ordered to pay more than £240,000 in back taxes...

Green-fingered man in pastures yellow

Champaign, Illinois (AP) - Sports enthusiasts in the United States like to see green, healthy grass growing on baseball fields and golf courses...

Olsen in agreement with United

Jesper Olsen, the Danish international, made his first trip to Manchester yesterday and was taken on a conducted tour of Old Trafford. Afterwards, Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, said: "We have agreed a three-year contract with Jesper but certain formalities are still to be sorted out with his club, Ajax."

Tuesday night's football results

Table listing football results for various leagues including British Championship, UEFA Under-21, FA Cup, and Premier League.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing sports records for Basketball, National Association, Handball, and Tennis.

SWIMMING

Table listing swimming records for various events and swimmers.

Salnikov heads Soviet team

Moscow (AFP) - Vladimir Salnikov, holder of the world 400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle records, leads the Soviet team for the European Cup short-course swimming in Ankara this weekend.

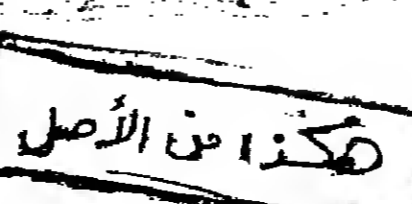
Island rejected

The Rugby League are not going ahead with moves to start the game in the Isle of Man. The Management Committee meeting in Leeds yesterday considered a preliminary approach from a group of people on the island, but decided not to pursue the matter.

Wiley to

Wiley to... (Fragmented text from the right edge of the page)

Wiley to... Differences that are familiar... (Fragmented text from the right edge of the page)



General Appointments

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

A baby need not cost you your job

One of the most unfortunate and harmful myths in the workplace is the concept of the "career woman". Aggressive, single-minded and "unfeminine", she abandons all ambitions of family and idyllic home life to claw her way up the corporate ladder. All other women are seen, by contrast, as unambitious, their interests revolving around home and children or grandchildren.

Enlightened employers are re-engaging women who quit their jobs for motherhood, says David Clutterbuck

Although the myth clearly bears little resemblance to the reality of today's working woman, it has a powerful effect on employers' attitudes towards any woman who does not immediately return to work after having a child, leaving it in the hands of a baby minder. Few employment attitudes are conceived with the idea that women can be both mothers and career-minded. For this reason, most employers assume that the woman who leaves to bring up a young family is a lost employee. Contact with her ceases, a replacement is hired and the matter forgotten.

and out of date. But in practice this seems to be much less of a difficulty than it is generally represented to be. Margery Povall, a researcher at the City University Business School, London, who has studied this area closely: "While there are jobs where the length of the career break can be critical - for example some high technology occupations on which six months' absence can make re-adjustment difficult - they are very rare. Most people adjust very quickly. Former employees returning to banking jobs after 10 years, for example, usually slot in immediately. Some things may have changed, but there is still so much in any occupation that remains the same".

Although only a small number were able, by virtue of their domestic circumstances, to do so, all were assimilated easily.

Another large employer carefully examining re-entry is the Greater London Council. It has had for some time provisions in its employment policies for women to return to work but they were rarely used because hardly anyone knew about them. Now the council is to launch a big internal publicity campaign to make women aware of the opportunities to resume their careers.

Other initiatives being taken or discussed by the GLC Equal Opportunities Unit include provision of day-care facilities so that mothers can return to work knowing their children are being looked after near at hand, special courses to help people gain new skills to qualify for vacancies, and a review of its "family responsibility leave".

The two 50 place day-care facilities planned are insufficient for the 200 applications already received from employees who might otherwise have to quit their jobs when their babies are born, so an additional scheme to provide financial help with local nursery care is being considered.

Family responsibility leave - time off to look after sick children - may be made less restrictive, to reassure women that they will be able to take care of domestic emergencies without losing their jobs. For those who want to work only part-time while their children are young, job-sharing may be on offer.

There are, says Margery Povall, two basic approaches concerned companies can take. One is to assume there will be a lengthy career break and ease it through such retention schemes as that operated by NatWest. The other is to make the career break as short as possible by providing a range of flexible options for the working mother to continue her career, either part-time basis or full-time with help to mesh domestic and career responsibilities. Either way, most British employers have considerable changes in attitude and policy to make.

Among companies, which have taken the issue seriously, is National Westminster Bank, whose re-entry scheme has impressed other banks sufficiently for them to begin planning their own. The Natwest scheme was introduced partly to retain scarce skills and partly as an active rather than a passive approach to tackling equal opportunity issues. The career break is an important factor in the disproportionate ratio of male to female bank managers.

The scheme, a long-term aim of which is to attract more bright women into the bank, gives former employees the option to return to work for a refresher period of two weeks every year, working normal office hours at their old job or a similar one, often as relief staff during holidays or when full-time staff are absent through illness. In some instances, re-entry is guaranteed. The bank has also contacted many former employees and asked them whether they would like to return to their old jobs.

Now, however, there is a growing recognition that "this attitude can be very short-sighted and that, even after a career break of several years, there are considerable benefits on all sides to former employees picking up again where they left off. Many jobs require a substantial training effort by the employer, an investment that is lost once the employee leaves, because, on average, women now work longer before they start their families, the amount and cost of this training is constantly increasing.

Instead of using that as a reason for discriminating against women in the provision of training, enlightened employers are recognising that they can recapture the benefits of the investment in such training by making provision for former employees to rejoin after a long break. There is an additional benefit in that the prospect of a return to work is an incentive for lower turnover, because women will be less tempted to emulate male colleagues and job-hope for marginal increases in salary.

In theory, the main problem with such re-entry schemes is loss of skill. Technology and procedures change people's knowledge becomes rusty

NEWSROUND

Overall recruitment in November, allowing for seasonal trends, was slightly down on October. Even so, vacancies are running at the rate of 17 million a year - at least 25 per cent up on last year.

Some 70 per cent of all vacancies notified to the Manpower Services Commission are in the service industries.

The number of management, professional and technical vacancies advertised in PER's weekly jobs newspaper *Executive Post* in November was 1,954 - some 200 less than in October, but 25 per cent higher than last year.

The volume of recruitment advertising in the "quality" national newspapers was 62 per cent up on November 1982. However, the *Daily*

Telegraph lost 17 London issues in November 1982 and the National Graphical Association stoppage last month lost the dailies an average of two issues and the *Sunday* one issue. Allowing for these stoppages, real growth was probably nearer 55 per cent. The "popular" press showed a much smaller growth of about 14 per cent - suggesting that management, professional and technical vacancies are the most buoyant part of the recruitment market.

Philip Schofield

TRAINEE ASSISTANT EDITOR

required for London publisher of collector's journal. Applicants must be well educated, preferably degree standard - and have the ability to write good, readable copy. They must also be active collectors of either books, magazines, prints, cards or some other area of interest. Excellent starting salary and future prospects. Write giving brief details of age, education, qualifications, hobbies, employment and leave the particular areas of collecting that interest you. Send your application, together with one sample of your writing to: Box No 00298 The Times

Cost/Estimating Engineer

Required immediately for modern sized engineering company in Dubai, UAE. At least 1 1/2 years experience in general estimating preferably in the oil and gas industry. Excellent salary and benefits. 1 year contract with 6 months notice. Salary to be negotiated. Applications to: The President GMMOS, PO Box 4613 Dubai, UAE

TRADE UNION ASSISTANT SECRETARY

required by GREATER LONDON COUNCIL STAFF ASSOCIATION to be responsible for membership and public relations. Salary including London weighting £9,622-£11,919 starting with 12 months probation. Application form from the Secretary, GLCSA, 15th Waterloo Road, London, SE1 8NL

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TEXAS EASTERN NORTH SEA, INC.

A Texas Eastern Company

Texas Eastern North Sea, Inc. is the UK subsidiary of a major US energy corporation and is responsible for the management of extensive exploration and production interests in the UK sector of the North Sea. Having been active in the North Sea since the early 1960's, Texas Eastern's current portfolio of properties includes working interests in the Beryl, Montrose, Fulmar, N.W. Hutton, Hutton, Murchison, Leman and Indefatigable fields. In addition to these proven discoveries, the Company is participating in the delineation of several known discoveries and embarking upon the most aggressive exploration programme in the history of its North Sea involvement. In conjunction with these efforts the Company seeks to recruit the following employees for its London headquarters:

CHIEF ENGINEER

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in engineering or science, preferably petroleum engineering, coupled with at least ten years oil and gas experience (including at least four years in the North Sea). Reporting to the Director of North Sea Operations, you will be responsible for supervising a staff of reservoir and production engineers involved in the management of our North Sea assets.

PRODUCTION/DRILLING ENGINEER

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in engineering, preferably petroleum engineering, coupled with at least four years drilling and production experience gained in the North Sea. Reporting to the Chief Engineer, you will be responsible for the production and drilling aspects of our non-operated UK properties.

CHIEF GEOLOGIST

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in geology coupled with at least ten years of relevant experience, a majority of which should have been gained with a major oil company in the North Sea. Reporting to the Manager of Exploration, you will participate in regional studies to identify and recommend the acquisition of new acreage and will also carry out detailed studies on our existing UK licences.

CHIEF GEOPHYSICIST

Candidates should hold a good Honours degree in geology/geophysics coupled with at least ten years relevant experience, a majority of which should have been gained with a major oil company in the North Sea. Familiarity with modern seismic techniques including acquisition and processing is essential, as is extensive interpretation experience. The position reports directly to the Manager of Exploration.

The company offers an attractive remuneration package which includes a highly competitive subsidised membership of BUPA and a non-contributory pension scheme.

To apply please write to A. E. TONER, c/o TEXAS EASTERN NORTH SEA, INC., FIFTH FLOOR, BERKELEY SQUARE HOUSE, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W1X 5LE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING BOARD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(£20,694 - £22,569)

Following the retirement of the present post holder, the Local Government Training Board will shortly have a vacancy for an Assistant Director at its offices in Luton. Besides being a member of the Board's management team the Assistant Director will be directly responsible to the Director for the development and Resources Division of the Board. The Division's functions include the identification of future training needs, training projects (such as the New Training Initiative), the Board's information and external relations activities, the development of training materials for use by local government, overall financial planning and management of the Board's financial affairs and its computer operations. The Assistant Director will also be involved in visits to local authorities for discussions with members, chief executives and chief officers.

The successful applicant is likely to be suitably qualified and to have had considerable management (including financial management) experience. Experience and/or knowledge of local government and/or the personnel training function would also be an advantage.

The post involves considerable travelling throughout England and Wales and a car allowance is payable. A generous removal allowance is available to assist with moving home.

For further details and application form please contact the Director (AD), Local Government Training Board, 4th Floor, Arndale Centre, Luton, LU1 2TS. The completed application forms should be returned to the Director by 6th January 1984.

REGIONAL MANAGER

LONDON SALARY c£15,000

The Association, which manages over 4,600 properties in the Midlands, East Angles, London and the South East has a vacancy for a Regional Manager to be based at its office in Victoria, London. The London Region covers both Inner London and Outer London boroughs in the north of the City with an area management office at Chiswick. An energetic and enthusiastic person is needed to undertake this challenging position responsible to the Chief Executive for promoting new developments with public and private sector finance together with managing the existing housing stock of over 650 properties. An appropriate professional qualification is desirable and an ability to work under pressure and their own initiative is essential.

The post carries the following benefits: - Starting salary c£15,000 - Annual leave of 25 days plus additional days at Bank Holidays - Contributory pension scheme.

Applications in writing giving the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: Chief Executive Orbit Housing Association Queens House, Queens Road, Coventry, CV1 2EG

ORBIT HOUSING

MAJOR ITALIAN BANKING ORGANISATION

Requires A Bilingual Programming Analysts, (Senior Programmer)

Applicants should be prepared to take up residence in Rome, after an initial period of service in the foreign network requirements: - Excellent knowledge of English and Italian. - Specific on location experience with the IBM 34 system and with the DOS/CICS operational system. - Age: maximum 35 years. - Should be willing to travel frequently abroad.

Applications - including a detailed personal curriculum - to be sent within 31st December 1983, to Box 37/N, S.P.L., Piazza San Lorenzo in Lucina 28, 00186 Rome.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO TRADE ASSOCIATION

Administrative Secretary, preferably with trade association experience, required for an International Trade Association based in South Herefordshire with members manufacturing animal feeds and human food. The appointee will be responsible to the Director General. The appointee's responsibilities will include the following: To supervise the Association's accounts; day to day management and administration of general office staff and office facilities and equipment; to organize facilities for meetings and the preparation of minutes; to prepare statistical information; to be Administrator of the I.A. Trade Association. Proven ability in book-keeping and administration essential. Overseas travel will be necessary. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Write (marked "PERSONAL") for further information or to submit an application to:

Director General, International Association of Fish Meal Manufacturers, Hoval Lane, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3AR U.K.

Knight Frank & Rutley

20 Hanover Square 01-629 8171

As part of an expansion plan, the Country Division of the firm is looking for candidates to fill the following post:-

London Office 1. Chartered Surveyor to deal with residential building land, leisure development and country properties. Minimum 2 years post qualification experience.

2. Negotiator/Surveyor for the Country House and Farms Departments. Preferably qualified.

Sherborne Office Assistant in the Country House Agency Department. Qualification useful but not essential.

All enquiries in confidence to J. E. M. Inge FRICS, Tel: 01-629 8171

EXPERIENCED SUBSEA ENGINEERS

We are a leading firm in the area of Subsea Operations and now wish to enlarge our teams in order to work on exciting new contracts.

We would like to hear from experienced subsea engineers with experience in the design of: - trees and well-heads - subsea controls - flowlines - pipelines - risers

Salaries are negotiable depending on experience and will be supported by the usual company benefits. If you have good experience in the areas mentioned above please write, with a comprehensive curriculum vitae, to: M. C. Goodman, SEAFLOW PELL FRISCHMANN LIMITED, 47 Nottingham Place, London W1A 1AL

ASSISTANT TO LONDON STOCKBROKER

(Salary Negotiable)

We are a young, medium sized firm of Stockbrokers with offices in London, Glasgow and Bristol. The head of our London Private Client Department requires a numerate and literate person to join his expanding team. The successful candidate must be able to take on a high level of responsibility and will ideally be a graduate. A period of internal training will be a pre-requisite although for applicants with previous experience this will be primarily to acquaint them with our internal systems and procedures. Please write with C.V. to:

N. F. Andrews GREG, MIDDLETON & CO, 78 Old Broad Street, London EC2M 1JE All replies will be treated in confidence.

Young Brokers

A division of a Financial Services Group based in the City of London are building a team of young service and marketing executives to develop its private client an institutional business in the field of financial instruments.

Applications in writing are invited from confident, well-educated young persons aged 20-25. Candidates must have a high standard of numeracy and literacy, command of a second language would be an advantage.

No previous experience of working in financial markets is necessary, as a full training programme will be provided. Remuneration is linked to results and will be very high for the right person.

Please reply in writing to: The Secretary, The London Investment Trust plc, Audley House, 9 North Audley St, London, W1

POOREST COUNTRIES

The World Development Movement, Britain's principal pressure group on Third World issues is looking for someone for a new post researching the changes needed in Britain's relationships with the poorest developing countries. The job will also include working with others to get these changes implemented. The post is for a two year fixed-term contract, salary will be on the scale £7,022 to £8,985. Full details, a job description and an application form, returnable by January 20th are available from W.D.M. Bedford Chambers, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8HA. 01-836 3872.

Sales Consultants for one of the U.K's leading Computer Services Groups £15,000-£25,000

The Hunterskil Group is a well established and fast expanding group of companies in the computer services field. As part of our planned growth programme we are now looking for additional consultants.

Contract Sales London We are looking for suitably qualified people to join our sales team at Knight Computer Services in Mayfair. We are now a market leader in Contract Systems and Programming support both in the UK and Europe and you will be expected to help further develop new business and build key accounts. Sales experience and a technical background would be ideal but more important is your potential and ability to negotiate.

Contract Sales Maidenhead At Hunterskil South based in Maidenhead you will have the opportunity to become part of a rapidly growing business selling specialist computer staff on a contract basis. Operators and Programmers - in the Thames Valley. Ideally you'll be aged 25-30, energetic, able to work under minimum supervision and succeed in an intensely competitive environment.

Recruitment Consultants London The permanent recruitment division of Knight Computer Services is looking for candidates under 30 with proven placement experience of computer or other qualified personnel. Alternatively a sales background in computer services with good communication and organisational skills would be considered. The division has a unique service and a fully backed up sales team.

All our vacancies are open to suitably qualified professional sales staff as well as other individuals who have the personal qualities and potential to justify training. The company offers first rate benefits and promotion prospects. PHONE TODAY

To discover more ring today for an informal chat and to arrange an interview. Phone 01-491 4706 between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm today or anytime during the week. Alternatively write quoting reference KRST 11/12 to: Hunterskil Group, 14 Old Park Lane, London W1P 4NL

The Hunterskil Group of Companies

WYTESKIL DATA H. Programming & Systems Knight

SECTION MANAGER PAPER CHEMICALS

A vacancy has arisen for a Section Manager, Paper Chemicals, in the newly-established European Central Laboratory of a successful multinational corporation operating in the area of Service Chemicals. The principal responsibilities entail the direction of a small section, the aim of which is to develop new products and modify existing ones in the field of paper chemicals and then, in conjunction with Sales and Marketing personnel, to play a major role in the successful exploitation of these products throughout Europe.

The successful candidate, in the age bracket 30-35 years, will be able to point to no less than six years' direct experience of the paper industry throughout Europe, and in Scandinavia particularly; to show evidence of the successful development of a product from the laboratory stage through to its commercial exploitation; to have had management experience in the field of either basic or applied research.

Applicants need a minimum of good Honours degree (First, or 2.1) in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering, but those with a Masters Degree or Doctorate will be preferred. Since the position carries with it responsibility for the control of development programmes requiring the co-operation of major paper manufacturers, principally in Scandinavia and Germany, it is necessary, in addition to being proficient in English, to be fluent in German and at least one Scandinavian language.

The position is located in North West England and carries with it a salary of £12,500. Interested candidates, male or female, should apply in writing, enclosing a brief C.V. to the Company's Advisors, Mercuri Urval Limited, Six Acre House, Town Square, Sale, Cheshire M33 1XZ, quoting reference 573.

Mercuri Urval

ANTIQUE SHOP in Mayfair requires full-time or part-time assistant with secretarial skills. Tel 499 0220. SMALL ART GALLERY & Publishing company require writing assistant 20-25. Office experience essential. Please reply in writing with CV to Box No 1207 L The Times. WE NEED NATIVE RESPONSIBLE individuals to train as leaders for overseas expeditions. We look for initiative, energy, and potential. You must be single and between 25-30 years old. If you have a name of these essential qualities or experience above please do not apply. Phone 01-470 0151. REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Dyestuff & chemicals operator. Home 01-232 0442. To advertise in The Times or The Sunday Times please telephone 01-837 3111 or 3333 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

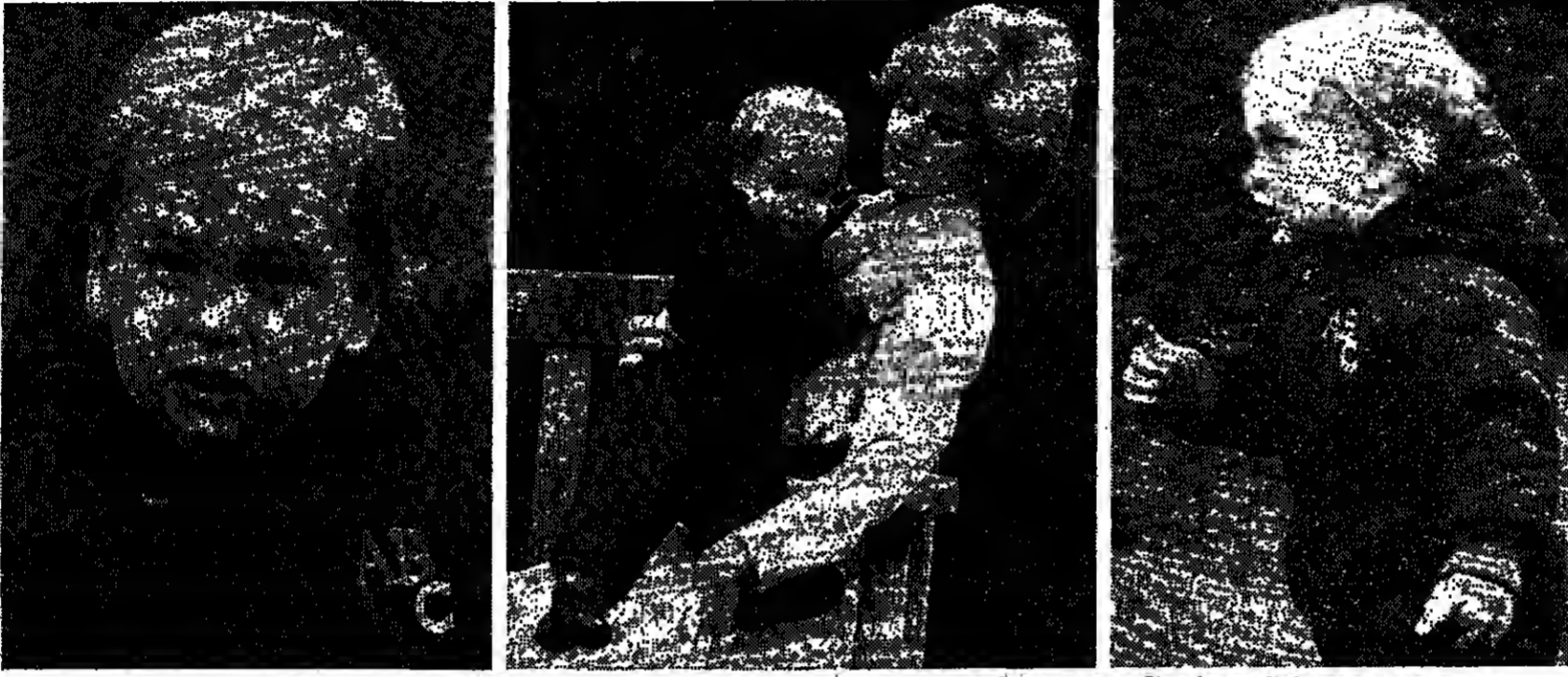
Reagan decides to seek reelection

Continued from page 1
The main reason why lingering doubts had remained about his intentions centred mainly on his age. He will be almost 78 by the time his second term expires...

Prince William steps out to face the press



The Prince and Princess of Wales keeping a firm hold on their son yesterday (Photographs Harry Kerr)



Prince William, aged almost eighteen months, displaying regal professionalism before the cameras at Kensington Palace yesterday.

Head-on clash over Scots home rule

Mr Gordon Wilson, the Scottish National Party member for Dundee East, found himself yesterday in the position of being required by the rules of order to wear a black top hat.
Readers who share my own horror of after-dinner games during country week-ends must accept that the incident was not as boring as it sounds...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen visits Customs and Exercise at King's Beam House, Mark Lane, EC3, to mark their twenty-first anniversary.

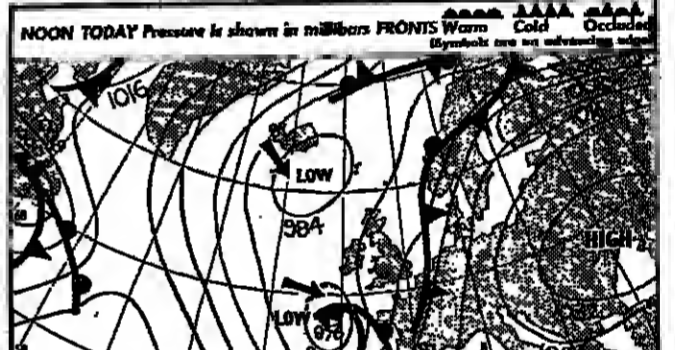
Westbury and District Hospital, 11,057, and opens Laverton Almshouses, Westbury, Wiltshire, 12.

Manchester Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Thurs 9 to 5pm, closed Sat and Sun (until 6 January).

Exhibitions in progress
The Second Bombing by Mulheimer Freiheit, Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (until 31 December).

New books - paperback
China, Alive in the Bitter Sea, by Fox Butterfield (Coronet, £4.50) Confessions of a Homing Pigeon, by Nicholas Meyer (Coronet, £2.50)

Weather forecast
Pressure will be low to the SW with troughs of pressure spreading into the SW later.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,310. A crossword puzzle grid with some numbers filled in.

Christmas cards
Charity cards are available from the following: Ashford ABS, 19 Bark Street, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 1JL.

Roads
North: A167: Major works at South Parade, North Allerton. A6119: Only one lane open on Whitebirch Drive, Blackburn, delays expected.

Holiday travel
British Rail will be running more than 600 extra trains for travellers before and after Christmas and new year holidays.

Lighting-up time
London 4.22 pm to 7.30 am. Belfast 4.32 pm to 7.40 am. Edinburgh 4.8 pm to 8.8 am.

High tides
London Bridge 8.56 AM, 8.56 PM. Aberdeen 8.56 AM, 8.56 PM. Avonmouth 8.56 AM, 8.56 PM.

ACROSS
1 A first, second and a place for the rest of course (5).

DOWN
1 They are not here to look back (8).

Christmas services
Lawyer's Christmas service, St Anne's Church, Manchester, 1.15.

Christmas post
The last posting date for inland parcels and second class letters and cards to arrive in time for Christmas is Saturday, First class items should be posted by Tuesday December 20.

The pound
Bank of England
Australia \$ 1.62 1.55
Austria Sch 28.80 27.20

Anniversaries
Births: George Ramsey, portrait painter, Dalton in Furness, Lancashire, 1734; Niels Finsen, physician, noble laureate, 1903, Thorsbaven, Faeroe Islands, 1860. Sir George Coyley, founder of the science of aerodynamics, died at Brompton Hall, Yorkshire, 1857.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Telecommunications Bill, third reading.

مكتبة من الأصل